

Jordan Times

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Bush gets 'positive' Soviet letter

GRAND JUNCTION, Colorado (AP) — President George Bush said Monday he received a "very important" letter from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last weekend indicating the Soviets were determined to reach agreement on an arms control treaty. "We view it as a positive response," Mr. Bush said. Mr. Gorbachev's letter dealing with superpower negotiations now under way to reach agreement on the START treaty to reduce nuclear weapons. Secretary of State James Baker is meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in Berlin later this week to try to resolve differences on the treaty. "Obviously, when you are dealing with these details on start you're dealing with highly technical issues," Mr. Bush told reporters as he prepared to fly from Los Angeles to Grand Junction, Colorado, Monday morning. "It's hard to categorize letters of this nature, but the tone was good. The determination to reach agreement was positive and we're looking very closely at the details." Mr. Bush said the START talks were down to "some very fine points of arms control."

Crown Prince visits General Command

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Armed Forces General Command and met with Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants. Prince Hassan and Gen. Abu Taleb discussed issues of interest to the Armed Forces. The Crown Prince also visited the Royal Geographic Centre where he was briefed by its director on its projects and role in the development process in the Kingdom.

University in Zarqa approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Education Council held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal and approved establishing a national University in Zarqa Governorate. It also approved the appointment of a University of Jordan vice-president for scientific affairs as chairman of the unified office entrusted with admitting students to Jordanian universities. The council also approved forming a committee whose task will be equivalence of certificates.

Fierce fighting in north Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Fierce battles raged Monday between government troops and Tiger rebels in the north for the fourth consecutive day, the military said. Troops moving northward in an attempt to beat back the guerrillas came under heavy rebel fire, military officials said. The fighting occurred near the village of Paratyanalankulam, 32 kilometres west of the northern town of Vavuniya. "The troops were counter-attacking rebel fire while consolidating their positions," said a military official at command headquarters in Colombo. Officials said there were no immediate reports of any casualties but soldiers on Sunday found six bodies of Tiger rebels killed in combat last week.

Shots fired at Carter site

MIAMI (AP) — Shots were fired Monday at a construction site where former President Jimmy Carter was working with other volunteers, police said. One volunteer was grazed in the head. Mr. Carter, about a block away from the shooting site, was not hurt. He later spoke to reporters and dismissed the incident. "When a former president or somebody famous comes to a place, they try to cause a little disturbance," said Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, are working with Habitat for Humanity, which is building 14 homes and a day care centre in the Liberty City neighbourhood. Habitat has built 10,000 homes for low-income families since 1976. A witness said three or four shots were fired from a car that sped off down a street near a volunteer tent. "It was definitely aimed at us, no doubt about it," said Anita Bjorok, a volunteer and witness to the shooting in the Liberty City neighbourhood.

Mother Teresa to open refuge for children in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Mother Teresa, the Roman Catholic nun who has devoted her life to helping the poor, is to open a refuge for sick children in Baghdad, a spokesman said Monday. The refuge, an old orphanage sandwiched between a Catholic church and a mosque, was a gift of the Iraqi government and would be staffed by six nuns from Mother Teresa's order, Father Kevin Doherty told Reuters. "Initially it will cater for about 50 children," said Father Doherty, an Irish missionary friend of the Yugoslav-born nun. Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work among the poor of the Indian city of Calcutta, arrived in Baghdad last Tuesday. "Her aim is to do what she always does. She begins with the children, those who are malnourished or handicapped, either mentally or physically," Father Doherty said.

Prime Minister Badran resigns, Masri asked to form new cabinet

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government and asked Foreign Minister Taher Masri to form a new cabinet, highly informed sources said Monday.

The sources did not say when the new cabinet will be formed or who its members will be, but analysts and observers predict that the prime minister-designate would have some work to do before he submits a final list of ministers for approval by the King and later on to the Lower House of Parliament.

Mr. Badran's cabinet is a loose coalition of independents, leftists, technocrats and the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is the single biggest group in Parliament.

It was not clear yesterday whether Mr. Masri's cabinet would be formed along the same lines of coalition but the observers said this depended on a number of factors, not least of

which is the willingness of various parliamentary groups to join or support the new government.

With memories of Mr. Badran's three-day struggle through the confidence vote of the Lower House in December 1989 still fresh in the minds of political observers and analysts, their immediate reaction to Mr. Masri's appointment is one of examining the political equation which would guarantee Mr. Masri the confidence vote of at least 41 members of the 80-man House.

A major preoccupation for the prime minister-designate should be whether the Muslim Brotherhood movement would choose to join the new government or to refrain from repeating their experience with Mr. Badran, where they narrowly decided to participate in his cabinet with five seats last January.

Analysts point to several factors that could influence the turn of events in this direction most important of which is Mr. Masri's stance towards a peaceful settlement of the Palestine problem which will not lead to the "full

liberation of the whole of Palestine" as the Brotherhood and for that matter another small number of ultra-nationalist deputies demand.

Another determining factor would be the movement's own assessments of their six months of participation in Mr. Badran's government. Analysts close to the movement point to a division among the ranks of Brotherhood members over the feasibility of what they call the "policy of containment" exercised by Mr. Badran.

"Among themselves they are asking whether their short experience in government has reaped them enough benefits to warrant a continuity of such a policy," a source pointed out. However, this same point is being discussed by the more secular groups in Parliament who feel that they were alienated by Mr. Badran's decision to take in five Brotherhood ministers in his cabinet at the expense of their support for more liberal policies.

While some analysts believe that Mr. Masri would try to form

a government of technocrats without the Muslim Brotherhood, others say that Mr. Masri cannot ignore the strength of the movement in the Parliament and among the populace at large.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Masri has arranged for a meeting with representatives of the movement this morning with another scheduled meeting with the leftist democratic bloc (seven members) later in the afternoon.

The sources add that the Brotherhood may have decided already against joining Mr. Masri's cabinet although they are not likely to answer him with a flat no.

The likely scenario, said one source, is that Brotherhood leaders will demand from Mr. Masri a pledge against negotiations with Israel in addition to their 14-point list of conditions which they wanted Mr. Badran to abide by one-and-a-half years ago.

However, the sources expect Mr. Masri, who is a member of the Lower House, and who enjoys good relations with most



Mudar Badran

House members to hedge his bets on the Brotherhood joining the government by looking for a majority without the movement's formal support.

The strongly pro-establishment nationalists and independent liberals as well as independent Islamists combined would provide the premier-designate with a narrow margin of around 45 votes



Taher Masri

post but only if they were able to unite their position in support of Mr. Masri, the analysts and observers said.

They expect that the foreign minister, a member of the 15-member National Bloc in the House, would be able to ensure a narrow margin of around 45 votes

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King receives Soviet message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the ongoing efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference.

Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Griadonov delivered the message to the king, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It did not give further details.

The message was the first direct contact between Amman and Moscow in the wake of last month's tour of the Middle East by Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, who was quoted as saying that the time was right to push Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Bessmertnykh, who visited Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel discussed prospects for a Middle East peace conference and Soviet contribution to the peace process. The Soviet minister was quoted as saying in Cairo that there was a good chance to start the peace process.

Iran says it wants better ties with Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Vice-President Hassan Habibi said Monday that Tehran and Baghdad must solve outstanding differences and establish a peaceful relationship, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast quoted Mr. Habibi as saying that "Iran and Iraq, which are neighbouring countries, must solve their differences."

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran, he said peace talks with Iraq, started after the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq, were interrupted by the recent Gulf war.

Mr. Habibi said that United Nations Resolution 598, which halted the Iran-Iraq war, must be viewed "comprehensively." He did not elaborate.

Baghdad restored relations with Iran soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August.

Iraq's strategy was to woo Iran at a time of rising tension with the U.S.-led coalition which later forced Iraq to leave Kuwait.

But tensions flared when Iraq cracked down on simultaneous Kurdish and Shiite Muslim rebellions launched in the wake of the Gulf war, and Iran refused to return tens of Iraqi warplanes that took refuge in Iran to escape allied bombing. Iraq accused Iran of instigating the unrest.

Relations were further strained last week when Tehran accused Iraq of intending to massacre 500,000 to one million Shiites Iran said were massed in marshlands in southern Iraq.

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Kuwaiti trials, death sentences spark outcry, tough warning

Jordanian woman condemned to death

By Serene Halasa
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Against the backdrop of a Jordanian appeal for world intervention to save the lives of Jordanians and Palestinians facing execution in Kuwait, another 55-year-old Jordanian woman was Monday sentenced to death, bringing the total number of those condemned to death to 13.

Leading Jordanian politicians and lawyers and Palestinian activists Monday joined widespread calls on Kuwait to end its summary trials and ensure that the conduct of justice is fair and just and the rights of the "accused" are fully respected in line with international norms and practices.

The death sentences were passed by the court for the work of the accused in the Iraq-run newspaper al-Nidaa, the only newspaper allowed to operate during the eight-month Iraqi occupation. Several others were sentenced to 10-year imprisonment, accused of the same crime.

Anxious family members of those condemned to death started a massive appeal campaign in Jordan Monday in an effort to attract world attention and block the death sentences.

A cousin of one of the journalists sentenced to death told the Jordan Times that the trial of his cousin, Ahmad Abed Mustafa, was grossly unfair. "Ahmad did not even admit to

any of the crimes he was accused of," Mustafa Abdul Hafiz Hussein said.

"We found out that he was held for two months, and brutally tortured at the hands of Kuwaiti authorities," he added.

As a result of the beatings, Mr. Hussein said, his cousin suffered internal bleeding of the liver.

"We seek to put an end to these repressive arbitrary trials," said Hussein Al Hussein, the brother of Abdul Rahman Al Hussein who also faces death in Kuwait.

The 38-year-old journalist was described by his older brother as a gentleman and a warm father of two little girls aged three and one.

"The trials are in absolute violation of basic human rights," Mr.

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Grenade thrown at Israeli facility

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — A hand grenade was thrown Monday into a yard housing an Israeli army-run employment office in the occupied territories, injuring an Israeli soldier, military officials said.

Soldiers searching the area in the West Bank's largest city of Nablus also found a homemade explosive planted nearby and safely dismantled it, they said.

A curfew was promptly clamped on Nablus and surrounding refugee camps, confining about 120,000 Palestinians indoors.

Settlement plan

An Israeli housing ministry official Monday disputed an Israeli peace group's statement that the government plans to build nearly 30,000 more housing units in the occupied territories.

Ministry spokesman Shaya Segal accused the group Peace Now of "over exaggerating" and said he knew of no plans beyond the announced ones to add 13,000 units to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The question of enlarging Jewish settlements is touchy since the United States has asked assurances that Israel is not moving Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories as a condition for aid to help absorb the thousands of new immigrants.

Mr. Segal's comments came in response to a weekend statement by Peace Now. It said about 10,100 apartments were to be built in some 16 settlements near the West Bank city of Hebron and 13,550 in 15 areas in Gaza according to documents available to it.

The peace group, best known for organising mass demonstrations against Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said five new settlements also were planned.

After Mr. Segal's statement, Peace Now leader Tzvi Reshef defended the group's accusation, saying "these documents do not look to me like they are being fabricated."

The Peace Now statement included a list of all the settlements involved and the amount of acreage and number of housing units to be added to each.

In March, two legislators, Charlie Biton and Eli Ben-Menachem, said that the government planned to add 24,300 new units to settlements. The housing ministry said then that those numbers were unfounded.

Likud drops 'Jewish rights' to both banks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ruling Likud party plans to renounce an old "claim" to land on both sides of the Jordan River, saying it wants to show Amman it is serious about peace, a Likud spokesman said Monday.

"We don't want a conflict with Jordan, we want a peace agreement. We don't want to threaten (Jordan). We want to advance peace," the spokesman, Gil Samsonov, told Reuters.

The United States is trying to arrange peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, including Jordan.

In a new draft of its constitution, Likud has dropped a reference to "Jewish rights" to both banks of the river, Mr. Samsonov

said. Likud and its predecessor Herut traditionally claimed "Jewish rights" to the "Biblical land of Israel."

"Likud has no aspirations beyond the Jordan River," Mr. Samsonov said.

The change was welcomed by the Labour Party, Likud's main opposition in parliament.

However, the new draft maintains Israel's "right to sovereignty" over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to Mr. Samsonov there is no contradiction in Likud supporting Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories and Israeli "sovereignty" over the land.

Bush: Peace talks 'no longer distant dream'

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. President George Bush has told American Jews that his Middle East peace effort will bear fruit only if Israel and Arab states "muster the political will" needed for a settlement.

At a fund raising dinner for the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, Bush commented briefly on the peace initiative he began three months ago hoping to take advantage of a feeling of good will after the Gulf war to search for a broad settlement in the Middle East.

"We've learned the hard lesson that geography alone cannot guarantee security for Israel. We've learned that military power alone cannot guarantee her security. Israel and her neighbours will enjoy true and lasting security only when they achieve genuine reconciliation," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has made four trips to the Middle East since the war ended but has been unable to persuade Israel, Arab states and Palestinians to hold direct negotiations.

Mr. Bush said that because of Mr. Baker's efforts, "direct negotiations between Israel and her neighbours no longer seem a distant dream."

"The process we have designed can promote peace, but only the parties in the region must make the political will to make it happen, if they do, the issues that divide them will fall away and the Middle East at last can begin the journey towards lasting peace," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir contended Sunday that Arab states were blocking peace efforts by refusing to acknowledge Israel's existence.

Yilmaz named premier

ANKARA (Agencies) — President Turgut Ozal Monday appointed Mesut Yilmaz, the new chairman of the governing Motherland Party, to become premier and form Turkey's next government.

Mr. Yilmaz, 44, a former foreign minister, forced Yildirim Akbulut to resign as premier by defeating him at a party vote Saturday. The change in party leadership was seen as an attempt to reverse the Motherland's sinking fortunes.

The party swept to power in 1983 with a reform programme but has steadily lost popularity because of recurring corruption scandals and high inflation, now running at around 70 per cent.

Mr. Yilmaz said it could take as long as a week to draw a cabinet list and submit the names to Mr. Ozal for approval. Mr. Yilmaz, who heads the party's Western-oriented wing, said he would include leaders of an Islamic fundamentalist faction as well as some secular politicians who had backed Mr. Akbulut.

Mr. Ozal, one of the founders of the Motherland Party, declared himself neutral in the leadership race. But the Turkish press said he and his influential wife, Semra, quietly backed Mr. Yilmaz.

The presidency is officially a largely ceremonial post that is above party politics. But critics charge Mr. Ozal has been running both the party and the government.

Mr. Yilmaz, 44, is the first Turkish politician to become prime minister as a result of the political party. He will probably lead the party into general elections due in 1992.

In an election victory Saturday, Mr. Yilmaz called the party leadership change "a last chance" for the party.

Congress poised to take power in India

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The Congress Party appeared poised to recapture power as counting continued Monday in parliamentary elections marked by extreme violence and the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

But the party, which led India to freedom and democracy a half-century ago, will not take enough seats to control parliament outright, according to results broadcast by state television.

Congress Party leaders confidently declared they would form the next government but admitted they would have to seek a coalition or "some working arrangement" with other parties.

Six senior Congress leaders met at the New Delhi home of acting party President P.V. Narasimha Rao, sure that theirs was the only party able to put a government together despite falling short of a majority.

"We are definitely going to form the government," said party spokeswoman Margaret Alva. "But it has become obvious we have to work something out with other parties."

With final results incomplete, it was not clear how far short of a majority Congress would fall after an election which began on May 20 but was tragically interrupted by Mr. Gandhi's assassination the following day.

State-run television projections said it would be the biggest party in parliament but about 30 seats short of a majority after counting ended for the 511 seats at stake in the poll, which ended on Saturday.

The number required to bridge the gap could dictate who Congress woos for a majority.

Mr. Rao, current favourite for the leadership and likely prime minister, told Reuters that Monday night's meeting would start deciding on an agenda for taking power and how Congress would choose a new leader.

"Nothing else can be said at the moment," he added.

With 325 of the 511 parliament seats declared, the Congress Party had won 173, the Bharatiya Janata 73 and the Janata Dal 24, television reported. The rest went to smaller parties, including 12 to regional parties allied with the Congress.

A party needs 256 seats to form a government.

Election analyst Pranjoy Roy said the results coupled with trends in undeclared races indicated the Congress party would end up with 210 to 220 seats.

With nearly two-thirds of the races declared, there were only two seats for the splinter party of lame-duck Prime Minister Chandrabab Nair.

The election was the deadliest in India's history, with more than 290 people killed in campaign violence. Two more people were killed on Sunday in Baroda, a city in Gujarat state.

Kuwaitis keep vast arsenal

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — At first glance, the mound of weapons in the back office of the Sabah Al Salem police station seem to show that Kuwaiti officials are succeeding in their attempt to take weapons out of civilian hands.

Rocket-propelled grenades and 50-calibre machine gun rounds spill out of two filing cabinets and the weapons on the floor include an anti-aircraft gun barrels, several grenade-launchers, and Soviet-Chinese and U.S.-made automatic weapons.

But closer inspection shows the bulk of weapons are slightly rusted hunting guns. Kuwait, once a largely non-violent society, has been transformed by the Iraqi occupation into a country where guns are zealously held.

A government programme to collect all the weapons in civilian hands by Tuesday may fall short of its goal by 50 per cent, police officers say. Others put the return rate even lower, at about 20 per cent.

Western diplomats worry that Kuwait could become another Lebanon, given the large number of weapons in private hands, the suspicion among ethnic and religious communities and frustration over slow rebuilding. But the prospect of house-to-house searches to take away guns is no more heartening.

Kuwaitis say they are keeping their weapons as insurance in case their government leaves them unprotected again — the cabinet and all senior army officers fled from Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion.

"It's a small amount (returned). People are afraid of the future, maybe (Iraqis) will come back again," said Ahmad Mohammad, who catalogues all the weapons coming into the station.

The hunting weapons eventually will be relicensed. But the military guns, which came from abandoned Iraqi stocks and broken-into Kuwaiti storerooms, are being confiscated.

We don't know how many weapons are in Kuwait. It depends on the honesty of the people," said Colonel Abdul Latif Al Issa, the police officer in charge of the weapons collection programme.

About 15 people have showed up towing anti-aircraft weapons the Iraqis left in their back gardens and Col. Issa believes others are keeping them as "souvenirs."

Many believe the Iraqi occupation lowered the threshold of violence in the society and that Kuwaitis will turn to guns much more readily. They worry that Palestinians, frustrated by unemployment and abused by the security services, might take up arms. Police said only one per cent of returned weapons has come from non-Kuwaitis.

Younger members of the ruling Al Sabah family and resistance cells are also unlikely to disarm. And Shi'ite Muslims, who want years of discrimination ended in return for their loyalty during the invasion, are believed heavily armed.

Col. Issa said searching houses to take away weapons is one option being considered before the deadline expires.

For many diplomats the image of the Kuwaiti army conducting house-to-house searches is a human-rights nightmare coming on top of widespread condemnation for torture of detainees and summary trials of alleged Iraqi collaborators.

"It's an area they can blunder into with enormously negative consequences. I can't come up with an example of any society that has been able to go into homes and sweep for arms with any success," said a Western ambassador.

U.S. to veto UN moves if Israel accepts deal

Compromise proposed for peace parley

The Jerusalem Post

THE U.S. will veto any anti-Israel U.N. Security Council resolutions on the peace process, if it accepts a U.S.-brokered compromise to break the procedural deadlock blocking the convening of a Middle East peace conference, Secretary of State James Baker told Foreign Minister David Levy last Thursday in Washington, officials close to Levy say.

"Baker said he could assure us no such resolutions will pass throughout the peace process," one official close to Levy said in recounting the meeting the two held at the State Department. These officials say Baker declared the U.S. would thwart any Security Council move on the peace process. They also say Baker cautioned that one should not underestimate the desire of the Soviets and the Europeans to maintain their status within the conference rather than abdicate their power to the U.N.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir wrote President George Bush earlier this month that the presence of a silent U.N. observer at the talks could essentially be a point of pressure against Israel should direct negotiations become stalemated. Specifically,

Shamir wrote Bush that the reports of the observer could be submitted to U.N. bodies, tempting the Security Council to intervene in breaking a logjam, thus making Israel politically vulnerable.

Therefore, a U.S. pledge by Baker to Levy that would torpedo any hostile Security Council resolution on the peace process could ease Israeli fears about including such a U.N. observer. Meanwhile, Baker remains intent on seeking to negotiate with all sides, in a bid to bridge the gap between the parties. Israeli officials say Baker has opposed efforts by White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft to issue invitations to the foreign ministers of the region to a preliminary parley to resolve procedural differences — and see who turns up.

Baker has so far rejected such advice as being too risky, and Shamir pointedly appealed to Bush in his letter to refrain from issuing any invitations until all outstanding issues are resolved. Levy emerged from his meeting with Baker with the understanding that Israel "will not be surprised" by any American diplomatic moves.

At Sunday's cabinet session,

the prime minister rebutted a remark reportedly made by Baker in a meeting with American Jewish leaders last week. According to participants at the meeting, Baker had charged that "people close to Prime Minister Shamir are less devoted to peace" than Shamir, Levy, and Defense Minister Arens.

The remark by Baker was taken as a veiled attack on Shamir's right-hand aide and director-general of his office, Yossi Ben-Aharon, who reportedly decided a compromise reached in a one-on-one meeting between Shamir and Baker to peace talks during his last visit here. To a lesser degree, the remark was also seen to refer to cabinet secretary Elyakim Rubinstein.

According to the Shamir-Baker compromise, Israel would not have a veto on the members of the Palestinian delegation from the territories, so long as the delegates commit to live in peace with Israel and agree to the dual-track approach of simultaneous peace talks with Arab states and Palestinians. In Shamir's letter to Bush, he backed up Ben-Aharon and said Israel must retain its veto of the members of the Palestinian delegation.

Habash says U.S. plan offers no hope

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestinian leader George Habash says the United States does not want to see the creation of a Palestinian state and that Washington's Middle East peace initiative offers Palestinians no hope.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader said in an interview late Sunday that the way forward for Palestinians was to press on with the intifada in the Israeli occupation territories.

"So far the American peace initiative, or what America calls peace initiative, says no to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and says also no to self-determination and says also no to any Palestinian state," he told Reuters and the Visions television agency.

"It offers no hope whatsoever," Palestinians should "play the card of international legitimacy (through the intifada)," said Mr. Habash, who is normally based in Damascus.

Mr. Habash, the most senior Palestinian leader to visit Iraq since Gulf war ended in February, said the PLO was being unfairly singled out for its support for Baghdad during the conflict.

"The Western states want to make of this point something against the PLO and against the Palestinians," he said, adding that the PLO had won the support of the Arab masses.

"We want to win the support of the West but what is most important for us is to win the support of our masses ... of the Arab masses."

Mr. Habash said the intifada, now in its fourth year, remained the best way of bringing the plight of the Palestinians to the attention of the world.

"The intifada is the force that we have in hand to tell all the world that we want a solution for our cause based on international legitimacy," he said.

Mr. Habash said international legitimacy through United Nations resolutions gave the Palestinians the right to self-determination and their own state.

"The American initiative jumps all over these important points," he said.

"America destroyed Iraq under the banner of international legitimacy. If she wants really international legitimacy let America come and agree that the Palestinian issue should be solved on the basis of international legitimacy."

Mr. Habash said the PLO would work to mend fences with the Gulf states, once its main financial backers but alienated by Palestinian support for Iraq.

But he said that Palestinians would in future have to depend more deeply on themselves. "We have to learn to depend on ourselves first and last."

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Jews of Yemen come under spotlight

SANAA (AP) — Officials deny that a recent visit by an American Jewish delegation was aimed at arranging the secret emigration of Yemen's small Jewish Community to Israel.

But the visit, widely publicised in neighbouring Arab countries put the spotlight on the Jews of Yemen in the wake of Operation Solomon, which transported 16,500 Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Even if American Jews were trying to arrange such an operation, its chances of success would be slight because Yemen bans travel by Jews in the country, who number between 700 and 3,000.

The operation to bring thousands of Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas, to Israel was condemned by Yemen and the rest of the Arab World.

The Arabs reject the emigration of Jews to Israel, saying many will be settled on the occupied territories at the expense of a future Palestinian state.

Sources close to Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani insisted Sunday that the American Jewish delegation which came to

Sanaa did not discuss such an emigration plan.

They said it was led by Haim Tawil, a member of the American Jewish Committee, and that the visit was devoted to signing an agreement with a local constructor to build a synagogue and bathroom for the community in Sanaa.

Saada, a city 250 kilometres north of the capital, has the largest concentration of Jews in Yemen.

The same sources said that Mr. Haim, who is of Yemeni origin, collected money in New York for the purpose and also tried to arrange for two scholarships in New York.

They said that another recent Jewish visitor from the United States was Yusef Baker, who belongs to a committee that rejected Jewish emigration to Israel.

Before the creation of the state of Israel, some 50,000 to 60,000 Jews lived in this ancient land of the Queen of Sheba.

But beginning in the late 1940s, Operation Magic Carpet took

some 40,000 to the fledgling Jewish state from the Red Sea country. Emigration stopped in 1960.

Those who continued to live here have been allowed to pursue their religious practices and Yemenis see them going about their lives hardly any differently from the millions of Yemenis.

Their women wear headscarves like the Yemeni women and they chew the traditional sedating green leaf qat like the Yemenis. They are distinguished by the skullcaps or by the braided forelocks that they wear. Many work as goldsmiths.

But they are not allowed to travel because they would likely end up in Israel. A human rights group noted this in a report after a visit here last year, while American Jews such as the latest delegation occasionally show up to review their status.

At one point, the so-called Sheba Operation was launched to help them emigrate to Israel, but it did not get off the ground.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh once said publicly: "I do not think that any of the Jews

living here want to leave, because they are in their homeland among their people and in a state that treats them as equal with other citizens."

Western diplomats noted that with last year's merger of conservative North Yemen with the formerly Marxist-ruled South Yemen, the Jews have taken a higher profile.

One of the multitude of political parties formed after the merger, the liberal Constitutional Party, invited Jews to join and said about 50 have already done so. One of the party papers carried a column signed by a Yemeni Jew, expressing views on the political system.

Yemeni Television recently screened a lively debate between two politicians, one conservative and the other liberal, on the involvement of Jews in political life. The conservative was hostile.

First to report an alleged imminent emigration of the Yemeni Jewish community to Israel and warn against it was the newspaper Al Sahwa, which is run by one of the Muslim fundamentalist parties.

It said about 1,000 tonnes of food would be needed to feed the 100,000 people who might be there for a month.

He said the C-130 has the capacity to transport that much food if needed. He said if barges did not move, the aid would be restarted from both Lokocho and from inside Sudan.

The U.N. delegation led by Mr. Ingram included representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF and the U.N. Development Programme. They have been on a quick tour of countries affected by the change of government in Ethiopia. They have already visited Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. Khartoum was their last stop.

Mr. Ingram stressed that the airlift will be for a short duration and will be terminated as soon as barges will be able to start moving from Kosti in central Sudan to Mahakal and then Nasir.

"I have assured the government of Sudan that the United Nations will monitor this operation closely and be fully involved in the selection of beneficiaries

and the management of the operation including the distribution of relief supplies."

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Kuwait says security lies in Arab troops

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait's crown prince was quoted as saying in remarks published Monday that the Gulf region's security lay in the presence of Arab troops, not Western ones.

"The hope (for security) lies, not in the presence of foreign troops, but in the agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with Egypt and Sister Syria," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told the Cairo daily Al Akhbar.

He was apparently responding to reports of differences between Egypt and Kuwait over future security arrangements in the Gulf.

Egypt last month withdrew the 35,000 troops it sent to the Gulf during the Gulf crisis. Syria started withdrawing its troops this month after Kuwait asked the United States to keep for the time being some of its troops which helped liberate the emirate from its Iraqi occupation forces.

An agreement signed in March by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — stipulated Cairo and Damascus would form the nucleus of an Arab peacekeeping force in the post-war Gulf.

"We are currently developing the Damascus declaration and executing all its points," Sheikh Saad said.

Experts from the GCC, Egypt and Syria were to meet in Doha, Qatar, Monday to discuss the accord and prepare for a foreign ministers' meeting in Kuwait next month.

The foreign ministers of the GCC, Egypt and Syria will consult well with each other during the coming meeting in Kuwait, Sheikh Saad added.

Sheikh Saad asserted Iraq was plotting to invade Kuwait again. (Iraq's ambitions do not stop at Kuwait but extend to include all GCC states," he said.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

PLO wants to discuss Lebanon arms plan

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestinians, while accepting the right of the Lebanese government to extend its authority throughout Lebanon, need their weapons to defend themselves, Palestinian leader George Habash said. Dr. Habash, speaking late on Sunday during a visit to Baghdad, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was fully prepared to discuss all these issues with the government of Elias Hrawi. "We do not regard ourselves as a militia," he told Reuters. "That is why we should not be treated as the militia." Dr. Habash, whose Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is a major force in the Palestinian refugee camps of southern Lebanon, said the PLO had repeatedly expressed a desire to help the Lebanese government extend its authority in line with an Arab brokered plan to end 16 years of civil war. "At the same time we have rights, some rights, for example the security of our camps, the security of our people living in the camps," he said. "We are saying to the Lebanese government let us sit together and discuss your rights and our rights." Asked if he was talking only about the right of self-defence or a right to use Lebanon as a springboard for Palestinian attacks on Israel, he replied: "We are prepared to discuss all these things. I do not want to talk about the results of these discussions (in advance)."

Shamir ordered Shin Bet chief probed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ordered the head of Israel's Shin Bet security service investigated for alleged professional misconduct and impropriety, a newspaper said Sunday. The probe against the security chief, whose name is kept secret in Israel, followed anonymous complaints from senior Shin Bet officials, the left-wing daily Davar reported. Davar noted that the investigation was completed last month with no action taken, but any such probe about the highly secretive agency is news in Israel. The newspaper did not explain what improprieties might have been involved. It said the investigator appointed by Mr. Shamir, reserve Major General Rafael Vardi, questioned the Shin Bet chief and found his explanations satisfactory. The paper quoted top Shamir aide Avi Pazner as saying he was under orders not to discuss the case. Asked by the Associated Press for comment, Mr. Pazner's office said that "we don't respond to all the publications regarding the Shin Bet." In March 1989, Mr. Shamir reportedly reprimanded the previous Shin Bet chief after senior agency officers got drunk in front of Arab waiters at a party thrown for the official's birthday. Newspaper reports at the time said Mr. Shamir, a security-minded former agent for Israel's Mossad spy agency, "reacted with amazement and shock" to the party. As prime minister, Mr. Shamir is directly responsible for the Shin Bet.

Greece delays trial of airline bombing

ATHENS (R) — The trial of Palestinian Mohammed Rashid, accused of involvement in a mid-air bomb aboard a Pan American airliner, was postponed until October after a brief opening session on Monday. A three-judge court, meeting under some of the heaviest security seen in Athens in years, postponed the trial because Mr. Rashid's lawyer, Nikos Konstantopoulos, was busy with another major trial and because of a two-week lawyers' strike. Mr. Rashid is accused of the 1982 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Hawaii which killed a Japanese and wounded 15 other passengers. He has been charged with helping organise the attack and being part of a team which planted the bomb. The brief hearing was held in a special room at Athens' top security Korydallos prison under heavy police guard and with the witness stand surrounded by bullet proof shields.

More than 1,000 mines detonated off Kuwait

PARIS (R) — The allies have detonated more than 1,000 mines in the waters off Kuwait and normal shipping traffic to the emirate will soon be reestablished, the French navy said Monday. A navy statement said mine clearing marine teams belonging to the nine member Western European Union (WEU) defence alliance had accounted for 869 of all the mines destroyed. Iraq has given the U.S.-led allies maps showing the location of 1,200 mines laid by its navy off Kuwait City and towards channels leading to the Shatt Al Arab waterway. A naval task force including six minelayers — France's Aigle and Orion, Belgium's Iris and Myosotis and the Netherlands' Harlingen and Haarlem — plus the Belgian support ship Zinnia was now returning to Europe, the navy said.

Kuwait's Al Qabas resumes publication

KUWAIT (R) — One of Kuwait's leading newspapers returned to the streets, Monday for the first time since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August. Al Qabas became the second daily to publish in Kuwait since the Iraqis left in February. The other is Al Fajr Al Jadid (New Dawn), a new newspaper. Government censorship of the press, introduced in 1986, is still in force. The broadsheet Al Qabas featured interviews with the heads of the central bank and customs office in Monday's edition. During their seven-month occupation of the emirate, the Iraqis used Al Qabas offices, press and some staff members to print Al Nidaa (The Call), a daily which ceased publication shortly before the Gulf war began on January 17. Six people who worked for Al Nidaa were sentenced to death on Saturday by one of the martial law courts set up by Kuwait to try hundreds of people suspected of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation forces.

France, Iran strike deal over debt

PARIS (R) — France and Iran will try to reach final agreement Tuesday on a financial dispute dating back to a billion dollar loan Paris obtained from the late Shah, the French Foreign Ministry said. Settlement could pave the way for a visit to France by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Spokesman Daniel Bernard told reporters on Monday that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi and a top French diplomat, Francois Scheer, would try to put the finishing touches to protracted talks over repayments and interest. They were due to meet at the foreign ministry in Paris. Mr. Vaezi's visit follows consultations by telephone at the weekend between Mr. Rafsanjani and French President Francois Mitterrand. France has paid back \$600 million of the loan, one of the few remaining obstacles to a complete return to normal relations. Ties were severed completely between 1987 and 1988.

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Home News

Doctors demand better working, pay conditions

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 1,300 doctors and specialists working for the Ministry of Health at hospitals and health centres in Jordan have sent a memorandum to the Minister of Health Adnan Jaljoul outlining their demands for better working and pay conditions and noting some drawbacks in the health service system in the Kingdom.

The memorandum noted, among other matters, that the low salaries given to the doctors working in rural and remote regions of Jordan was discouraging, that health centres and government hospitals lacked proper equipment, that the further away from the capital doctors work, the worse are their living conditions, that the Health Ministry does not have any incentives to promote doctors' work and improve their status and services, that doctors with the same specialisations and years of service receive different salaries and that the health services in Jordan force doctors and specialists to seek work in the private sector where modern equipment is available and the pay is better.

Details of the memorandum, which were published in the local Al-Dustour daily, also pointed out that the health services are of three types: those of the Royal Medical Services (the Armed Forces), those of the Jordan University Hospital and the Health Ministry which operates hospitals and health centres in various parts of the Kingdom.

The conditions imposed on doctors working for the Health Ministry are the worst in terms of pay and incentives, said the memorandum.

The low-level services and the lack of proper equipment, the memorandum said, are adversely reflected on the services to the public.

The memorandum demanded that further training for doctors be offered on regular basis to upgrade their standard and efficiency, that allowances be offered as an incentive to the doctors, especially those working in remote regions of the country, and that equal treatment in terms of promotion and salaries be offered to all doctors employed in the Jordanian health sector, without any exception.

The memorandum said that a decision to scrap the National Medical Institution (NMI), which used to run hospitals, has left the whole health services system in the hands of the Health Ministry, which, they said, should be helped to offer better services to the public by first improving the pay and living conditions of the Jordanian doctors.



Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid addresses the opening session

Workshop calls for rehabilitating, integrating the handicapped in society

AMMAN (J.T.) — A workshop entitled "Community-Based Rehabilitation... the UNRWA Experience" was opened at the Amman Training Centre, near Al Mukablah, south west of Amman, Monday, with the participation of representatives of various voluntary and social services and organisations in the Kingdom.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, who opened the first session, called for increased efforts to give due care to handicapped persons, who, he said, require rehabilitation services so that they can be integrated in society.

Prince Raad voiced Jordan's appreciation to UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Work Agency) for hosting and sponsoring the workshop at its Amman Training Centre and noted that the Jordanian-Swedish Friendship Society would organise another seminar on the rehabilitation of the handicapped in October.

UNRWA Director in Jordan Frank de Jong addressed the opening session, underlining the importance of rehabilitation services to the handicapped and urging the local community to offer the handicapped the opportunity to be incorporated in society.

This workshop, which would last three days, he said, is bound to offer the opportunity for the participants from various institutions to exchange experience and useful information in providing services to the handicapped people.

UNRWA submitted a working paper which noted that nearly 80 per cent of the world's handicapped persons live in developing and poor countries. The paper called for a revision of government policies with a view to introducing measures that would cater to the real needs of the handicapped.

The Queen Alia Social Fund (OAF) submitted a working paper revealing that the Kingdom has at least 13,829 handicapped persons and calling for increased private and public services to them.

RJ resumes Beirut flights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national airline Royal Jordanian (RJ) Monday resumed its regular flights to Beirut and said that it would be operating three weekly flights to the Lebanese capital.

The resumption of RJ flights came after a six-year suspension that followed the hijacking of one of the airline's planes and the prevailing situation in Lebanon and the Arab World, according to RJ officials.

An RJ Boeing 727, with 11 passengers on board, including Jordanian officials, made the first trip and were welcomed at Beirut Airport by Lebanese Minister of Transport Shawkat Fakhouri and other officials, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Minister of Transport and Communications Jamal Saraih, RJ Chief Executive Officer and Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Jamil Balqaz and Dr. Majdi Sabri, RJ vice president for commercial affairs as well as the Lebanese ambassador to Jordan were among the officials on board the flight.

Minister of Transport Jamal Saraih expressed his satisfaction with the visit and the return to normal life in Lebanon after a prolonged civil strife.

The minister conveyed greetings to the Lebanese people from His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people, and said that Jordan would not spare any aid to the Lebanese people. He said that RJ would place all its maintenance and training facilities at Lebanon's disposal.

His Lebanese counterpart, Shawkat Fakhouri, said RJ's resumption of operations to Beirut was a very happy event for Lebanon and the arrival of the first RJ plane in six years was a historic moment for the Lebanese people because it marked the restoration of confidence in Lebanon and its march towards achieving reconciliation and stability.

Mr. Fakhouri announced that most Arab airlines would resume their flights to Beirut after Eid Al Adha, towards the end of June.

Mr. Saraih and Mr. Fakhouri held a meeting during the six hour visit discussing civil aviation matters and calling for an Arab transport ministers meeting to discuss civil aviation issues in the Arab World.

With the Monday flight, RJ became the eighth foreign airline to resume flights to Beirut since the Syrian backed Lebanese warring militias in a seven-month-old government drive ended 16 years of civil war.

RJ Chief Abu Ghazaleh said a statement to Petra that the resumption of the national airline's flights to Beirut constituted an advanced step towards bolstering Jordan's ties with other Arab countries.

"The move reflects RJ's keenness on pursuing its services for the Jordanian and other Arab nationals as an embodiment of principles and its role as a leading Jordanian and Arab institution helping to build bridges of understanding and friendship between Jordan and Arab and foreign countries," Abu Ghazaleh said.

He expressed hope that the near future would witness further steps in bolstering civil aviation cooperation between Amman and Beirut.

Europe promises support to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — European parliamentarians have promised to provide economic and political support to Jordan to help it overcome the present difficult conditions, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, and a European parliamentary delegation is expected here this year, according to parliament member Mohammed Abu Alim.

Dr. Abu Alim, who represented Jordan at a Euro-Arab dialogue which was concluded in Strasbourg, France, recently, said that the European parliamentary delegation was expected here in September to discuss European-Jordanian cooperation and means of European support for Jordan.

Several Arab delegations took part in the dialogue, which was characterised by total frankness, Dr. Abu Alim said.

He said that the dialogue, the first since the end of the Gulf war, revealed a similarity of Arab and European parliamentarians' views with regard to the Palestine question and the participation of

European countries in the peace-making process.

Dr. Abu Alim conveyed Jordan's official and popular views with regard to the Gulf war, noting that the international community had adopted a double standard policy with regard to the Arab issues.

Dr. Abu Alim said that he gave details about damages to the Jordanian economy as a result of the Gulf crisis, noting that now the Kingdom has lost all Arab countries, material and economic aid.

Dr. Abu Alim underlined the importance of Jordan's role in ensuring stability in the Middle East region, noting the democratic transformation in the country, which, he said, is blessed by the Jordanian people.

According to Dr. Abu Alim, parliamentary delegations from Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen and Palestine participated in the Euro-Arab dialogue.

ADC urges intensified campaign to portray true Arab image

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chairman of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Albert Mkeiber was in Jordan earlier this week in order to gather information on certain issues that, he said, were needed to be brought to the attention of the people in the United States. Mr. Mkeiber said the focus of his interest was mainly on water and the Israeli settlement policy.

"We are focusing on (U.S.) double standards and on settlements," Mr. Mkeiber said. The ADC is filing a lawsuit against the Israeli government and its settlement policy as well as for manufacturing tear gas bombs. "What we need now is to educate the American people. We have a window of opportunity, if we do not take steps and challenge them, we will never get anywhere," he added.

Another issue the ADC is focusing on is Palestine in its entirety. Mr. Mkeiber explained that when the crisis began, the issue of Palestine was brought up. Then it began to narrow down to the West Bank and Gaza, then Jerusalem and now the settlements. "We want to make sure the focus stays on Palestine," he said. "We sent an action alert," he continued, "to all our 25,000 members, asking them to meet with congressmen (on July 4 when they all go to their home towns) to bring these issues and to apply pressure."

The ADC will try to win congressmen on their side through strong lobbying. "We will try to organise first the Arab-Americans, then we will bring peace groups and ethnic groups to pressure the congress by asking many questions," Mr. Mkeiber said. He explained that the focus would be on economic issues and international law. For example, he said, Israel receives over \$6 billion every year from the United States. The ADC wants these groups to oppose it on grounds that there are so many problems at home (U.S.), most pressing being poverty and unemployment. "We are prepared to sue the American government for aid that goes to Israel for settlements, in violation of the Geneva Convention," Mr. Mkeiber said.

"We are also getting doctors, journalists, all sorts of people to promote the issue of a Palestinian resolution, with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) speaking for the Palestinian people," Mr. Mkeiber added. In order to see for themselves the situation, the ADC feels it is important to bring congressmen into the Middle East, especially the occupied territories.

Concluding, Mr. Mkeiber said that basically "what we want to do is raise the big issues, among them the water problem, in preparation for a peace conference. The ADC Vice President for Middle East Affairs Wafa Nasr said: "What is the point of sitting down at the peace table and discussing boundaries when we are being robbed of our water? This (the water issue) is directly tied to peace and it must be taken to the United States," he added.

"We believe that water will be the next Middle East war," Mr. Nasr continued. "The priorities today should be discussions about water rather than oil," he added.

The ADC, according to Mr. Mkeiber, is travelling city to city, country to country gathering support for Arabs towards a peace process. "It is not easy. What we are doing is fighting the largest lobby (Israelis) for all of us," he said.

How could Jordan's ADC chapter, one of 70, help? "Through information," Mr. Mkeiber said. "If we get information quickly and accurately, we can disseminate it

and take it to (U.S.) congress." More importantly, he said, is the cultural exchange. "To have more Jordanians and Palestinians come to the United States with paintings and other cultural displays." In that manner, he said, the image of Arabs can be overcome by beautiful art work.

One of the biggest issues ADC had to counter during the crisis was the hate crimes. "During every crisis, Arab-Americans are the convenient scapegoats," he said. From 1985 to 1987 there was an increase in these crimes. From 1987 to 1990 there was a significant decrease, because of the intifada. During the war, hate crimes rose sharply in the United States "ranging from a child being slapped because he spoke Arabic to a mosque, a church or businesses blown to pieces," Mr. Mkeiber said.

Even congressmen and other officials, Mr. Mkeiber said, saw the Arabs as terrorists. "It is absurd, an institutionalised form of racism," he said.

At that point, the ADC worked on getting support. "We brought Arab-Americans, Asian-Americans, African-Americans and even Jewish-Americans, who supported our cause, and eventually we had the media and congress on our side," the chairman told the members.

The hate crimes were done by politically or racially motivated people and "so we gained a lot of support from the ordinary American who wrote letters of apology to us," Mr. Mkeiber said.

Mr. Nasr added: "We had contacts with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and stopped many things that were not felt in the Middle East, but which could have had bad effects, like no Arabs being able to travel to the United States."

Mr. Mkeiber and Mr. Nasr Sunday left Jordan for Syria and Lebanon.

\$107m aid from Italy to be used for development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has secured aid from Italy, worth \$107 million, following talks in Rome over the past week between the Italian government and a Jordanian delegation, led by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah. The minister, who returned to Amman Monday, described his visit and talks with Italian government officials as successful and reflecting the strong ties between Jordan and Italy.

The Italian side displayed full understanding of the Jordanian economic needs, prompting the Italian government to promise aid worth \$107 million to the national economy, according to a protocol signed before the Jordanian delegation's return to Amman," said the minister in a statement.

"The protocol, signed on June 12, was the first of its kind between the two countries, and the talks helped boost bilateral understanding and cooperation at all levels," the minister said.

According to Dr. Abdullah, the protocol provided for a \$55 million grant which would be forthcoming in the form of technical assistance for the implementation of 14 development projects. These, he said, are the restoration going on at the Jerash archaeological site, the construction of the government hospital in Karak, the enlargement of the Salt Handicraft School, the Ministry of Education's Printing Press School, a foundry being set up by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), training of officials and technicians employed by the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO), consultancy services for a feasibility study on a new tomato paste factory, development of the Jordan Electricity Authority laboratories, a dress-making workshop undertaken by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), a project to rehabilitate the hearing impaired, a scheme for the development of rural regions carried out by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund in the Irbid Governorate, training of technicians employed at the high voltage power network undertaken by the Polytechnic School, a mosaics project in Madaba and a development project by Muta University, near Karak.

The minister said that \$30 million had been earmarked for these projects.

Dr. Abdullah said \$12 million would come to Jordan in emergency aid to help the water, agricultural and health sectors over the coming three years.

In addition, the protocol provided for the allocation of \$20 million in the form of a loan to set up a tomato paste factory in the northern badia region and to purchase commodities from Italy, needed by the Jordanian market, the minister noted.

He said that the Italian government also decided to allocate \$26 million to finance food, as aid to Jordan. The aid, to be coming through the Ministry of Supply, would come as rice and flour to be shipped to the Kingdom during 1991, the minister continued.

He said that Italy had promised to allocate a further \$4 million to finance food supplies to Jordan in 1992.

The minister was accompanied on the visit by officials representing the Ministry of Planning, JAMPCO, the Health Ministry and the Ministry of Education.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Iceland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Iceland on his country's national day. The King wished the president and the people of Iceland further progress and prosperity.

Historians honoured

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Ali Mahafza, Dr. Youssef Ghawanneh, dean of the Arts Faculty, Dr. Abdul Aziz Awad and Mr. Sulaiman Al Musa were all presented with medals at a special ceremony held here Monday. The medals were given in recognition of their endeavours as Arab historians who dedicated their work and efforts to writing and other activities related to Arab history.

Half of damaged projects repaired

TAFLEH (Petra) — Department of Public Works officials said Monday that they had completed nearly 50 per cent of the total repair work on agricultural projects damaged in last April's storm which hit the southern regions of Jordan. The storm caused severe damages to crops as well as agricultural roads, bridges, culverts and other property. The government had allocated JD 1 million to finance the cost of repair.

Committee to buy grain from Karak

KARAK (Petra) — A Ministry of Agriculture's committee entrusted with the task of purchasing locally produced cereals embarked on its mission in the Karak Governorate where the grain has been harvested. According to the committee, the local farmers will receive JD 175 for a tonne of wheat, JD 147 for a tonne of barley and JD 105 for a tonne of lentils.

National Music Conservatory delights audience again

AMMAN (J.T.) — After an interlude of several months (due to the Gulf war) the life of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) is in full swing once again.

Although the routine academic life of the conservatory was not affected by the events in the area, examinations are in progress at the moment. The conservatory, unfortunately, could not treat its public to any concerts by visiting musicians.

Now, as if to compensate for those stagnant months, the NMC is pleased to offer a wide range of music performances.



Last Sunday the Ludwig String Quartet (France) delighted the Royal Cultural Centre audience with its brilliant performance of classical and contemporary music. The quartet played Mozart, Ravel and a piece by H. Dutilleul. The event was co-ordinated with the French Cultural Centre.

The National Music Conservatory will also act as a co-sponsor of the programme of conductor Franklin Choset (U.S.), who will have a busy schedule with the NMC, Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and Yarmouk University Music Department. Mr. Choset will also pay a working visit to the army orchestra.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Shawkat Fakhouri, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifq Al Razzaq at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Palestinian heritage exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.

CONCERT

- ★ Piano recital by British pianist Antony Feebles at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ The avant-garde films of the twenties: Introduced by Mr. Sami Kassar at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

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Jordan Times

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Established 1978

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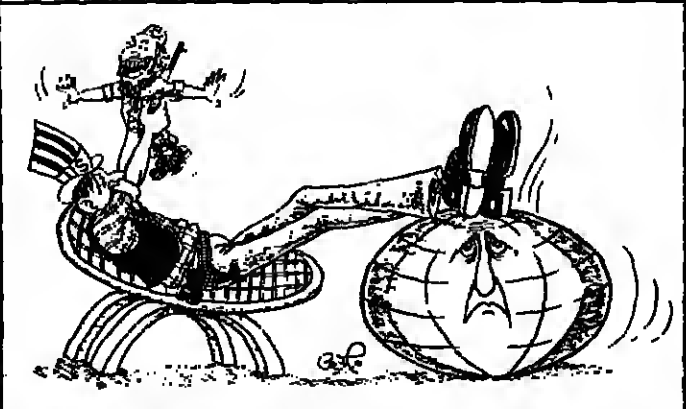
THE ASSERTION by the European Community (EC) that negotiations between the Iraqi government and Kurdish leaders are at a dead end and the 12-nation bloc's call for further United Nations and American action to "protect" Kurds in northern Iraq come as a surprise when seen in light of definite statements by Kurdish representatives that an agreement has already been worked out to resolve the Kurdish problem. Coupled with the British reluctance to release its grip on some of the economically strategic lands in northern Iraq — they being the most fertile in the country — the EC position cannot but be seen as part of an ongoing campaign specifically aimed at keeping Iraq off-balance and denying its leadership any chance to restore normalcy to the war-shattered country.

Perhaps the apparent success of the Baghdad talks has disappointed some quarters and the sudden European discovery that the negotiations are deadlocked is a manifestation of that disappointment. Needless to say, any significant progress in resolving the Kurdish problem without bringing about a threat of partition of the country is seen by these quarters as a victory that the Iraqi government does not deserve and an element which will help Baghdad devote itself to addressing the problems left behind by the devastating Gulf war.

Surprising as it is, the European Community position borders on being more Kurdish than the Kurds themselves. We wonder what the Kurdish peace negotiators have to say about it.

While we do not know how the European Community reached its conclusion that the Baghdad negotiations are stalled, we do know one thing: Any procrastination on the part of the international community in allowing the Iraqi government to resume total control of the country will have very adverse repercussions and add to the misery and suffering of the Iraqi people.

Haven't the Iraqi people suffered enough? Or is it that the world community — at least its so-called leadership — harbours centuries-old hostility towards the people of Iraq to the extent that they are condemned to continued misery and suffering with no light at the end of the tunnel?



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday discussed the graduation of a new batch from the military wing of Muta University and said that the young graduates will now take their position side by side with their colleagues in defending the homeland. It said Muta University was a great symbol for Islam and for the Kingdom, and the graduates come from an Islamic site reminding us of the Muta battle in Islam; and its graduates complement the Kingdom's march towards democracy. The paper said that the democratic process in Jordan is best protected by Jordan's security and armed forces because true democracy cannot survive with the presence of internal enemies with harmful designs towards Jordan and its people. Jordan is in need of continued stability and safe and secure people if the country is to achieve further progress and development; and each member of the Jordanian family has a duty towards enhancing the country's well being in every respect, the paper noted. The paper said that the new graduates who received military training to protect their nation from internal and external enemies enjoy the people's full confidence because, through them, the Jordanian people can harbour further aspirations and hopes for a safer future.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily echoed a call by the Jordanian government Sunday on international and Arab and Islamic organisations and governments to intervene and put an end to the atrocities committed in Kuwait against innocent Palestinians and Jordanians. These barbaric acts of slaughter and murder committed after theatrical trials against those people who had built up Kuwait and its institutions transforming it into a modern state are done by irresponsible Kuwaitis who have sold out their Arab Nation, said the paper. The daily described the Kuwaiti government as blood thirsty intent on killing innocent people and shedding the blood of Palestinians and Jordanians under the pretext that they had collaborated with the Iraqi forces during the occupation. They had thought that the Kuwaitis would benefit from the occupation and the Gulf war lessons and emerge with a new character and new principles guiding their positive relations with their Arab brothers, the paper continued. It seems that the Kuwaitis have not repented what they had been doing before the war, and are indifferent to the disasters and the economic destruction that had befallen their country and the neighbouring states, but rather they are intent on offering continued service to the colonial powers who pursue the act of pillaging Arab wealth, the paper said.

Despite problems, democracy is here to stay

By George Hawatmeh

JORDAN has had its fair share of problems this spring. The Gulf war has ended with the defeat of Iraq, leaving Jordanians to wonder about the emerging new order in the Middle East. The economy is being sustained, but there are difficult questions ahead. The growing population (over 200,000 returnees from Kuwait, along with their 30,000 cars), water shortages and pollution are other major issues that the country has to contend with.

But one of the biggest challenges that face Jordan at the present is what to make of its democratic experiment and to see whether democracy can become a way of life for its citizens and hopefully for the whole region.

While it is too early and difficult to learn every lesson the Gulf crisis and war have taught, there is nevertheless a

generally agreed view that without truly democratic political systems this part of the world will continue to suffer from strife and upheavals, warped development and economic problems. Jordan is at the forefront of subscribers to this view, both by virtue of the experience gained from its 18-month-old experiment with democratisation and because there is not any question that the pre-war political system (or order) in the area has totally failed.

Despite internal and external resistance and pressures against going out on a limb to practise democracy in the neighbourhood of mostly autocratic regimes, Jordan appears determined to stay the course. True, Jordanians are still learning the art and as such cannot claim to know it all. But they are in the middle of historic change, and would not

want others to stand obstacle in the face of what has to be a healthy transformation process. Nor, in fact, do they wish to see some overbearing and localised sentiments rock the boat.

Of the late there has been any number of controversial issues seriously debated at home. Most concern government decisions and attitudes on such important matters as education, corruption, agriculture, pollution by factories and in dams.

It remains to be seen how and when democracy will impact the outcome (if there is one) on either or all of these issues that had largely been "national security" material not long ago. So far, however, the debates have been not worse or more circusy than in any working democracy we know.

This probably means that

earlier trepidations about "suddenly unleashing public freedoms" were not totally justified or accurate. But, more importantly perhaps, it means that our people are politicised, and tolerant, enough to know what the exercise is all about and to play it as well as they can.

Democracy in Jordan is in its infancy stages, it has to be said, but indications are that it can grow on Jordanians and prosper if it is nurtured and protected as an irreversible course.

After all, the entrenchment of democracy at home and its spread in the region is the only viable answer to our problems. And in these not only the home-grown controversial issues are included, but also the Palestinian problem and the future order of the Arab region as a whole.

The Jordanians, who I be-

lieve are intelligent people, know that there is no easy way out of the predicament that the Gulf war has left with us. The only clear way therefore is to go ahead with the social, economic and political metamorphosis that is needed to create new thinking and new realism in the area, starting, where credibility should start, at home.

Naturally, there are always reactionary forces that do not want society to outpace their worldly development. But as long as each and every side respects and abides by in-house democratic rules, the outcome will no doubt be progress and a more healthy development process.

There has been a thorough and intensive debate by all the political groups in the Kingdom resulting in the formation and adoption of the National

Charter which will serve as a guide for political organisations and work in the future. The document, as has been approved by all party members of the Royal Commission, which drafted it and the National Congress that was held in Amman on June 14, is a progressive social contract that will further enhance democracy and pluralism in the country.

Observers like me, watching with interest the workings of a nascent democracy at work. I am not the only one amongst them who is waging on Jordan to emerge stronger than at any time before.

A shorter version of this article has appeared recently in "Jordan: Issues and Perspectives," a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington.

The men with muscle: the AIPAC leaders, battling for Israel and among themselves

By Lloyd Grove
Washington Post

SOON after becoming executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — the pro-Israel lobby known as AIPAC — Tom Dine propounded his theory of the Muscular Jew.

It was the early 1980s, and he was busy pumping AIPAC up into a powerful, grass-roots pressure group with members in the tens of thousands.

In Dine's philosophy of brawn, which some at the lobby believed was not entirely metaphorical, there were Muscular Jews and there were others. Muscular Jews participated in policy-making through the political process, and refused to be shunted aside. The others were afraid to stand up and be counted.

Many prominent Jews in the 1930s and 1940s were of the non-muscular type, Dine believed. They thought gentle persuasion could coax the Roosevelt administration into saving millions from the Nazi death camps. In 1939, the German passenger liner St. Louis, carrying 937 Jewish refugees, was refused entry to the United States and forced to return to Europe. If AIPAC had existed then, Dine believed, it would have gotten those refugees off that ship.

AIPAC was a muscular organization.

"You haven't heard my civics lesson," Dine said recently at AIPAC headquarters, an office as well guarded as many embassies, a few blocks from the Capitol. "I should have a bust in here of James Madison. It's his system that we are living with, and enjoying, and utilizing: checks and balances! The idea that policy is made through, in this case, two branches of government, and citizens are involved in the making of it. To me, that's what this country is about — and I feel it very, very strongly."

At 51, he has the slender build of an inveterate jogger, and fairly shines with sunny good humour. He's so deft at communicating his protean enthusiasms — whether baseball, Greek mythology or the lifestyles of the rich and famous — that people often mention his "charisma." He's by turns funny, profane and professorial, happy giving a disquisition on the Corwinian theory of political struggle in the formulation of foreign policy, or dishing gossip about Caspar Weinberger and Richard Darman — two of AIPAC's betes noires.

But occasionally, when angry, and shouting at a reporter, he exudes a ready-to-rouble menace, as though he were still accompanying his teammates into the enemy locker room — as a first baseman for his Cincinnati high school, circa 1955 — after the other club had mocked him with antisemitic taunts.

Like other top AIPAC employees, Dine is well paid for his trouble, in keeping with the lobby's goal of attracting the best talent. In 1989, according to AIPAC's latest available tax return, his compensation package included \$146,817 in salary, \$47,223 in expenses and \$20,520 in benefits — in the high-middle range of executive compensation at comparable Washington organizations.

But AIPAC is no ordinary public affairs group — and Dine is no ordinary lobbyist. He is, in a sense, the keeper of the flame, defending the Jewish homeland

that emerged out of centuries of persecution — not least the Holocaust of World War II. The emotional pull of these memories is a powerful inducement for AIPAC's contributors, who expect that their gifts of money, which are not tax-deductible, will be used to safeguard the Jewish state.

In August 1988, at Dine's request, fellow members of the lobby's officer committee extended him a \$150,000 mortgage loan at 6 1/2 per cent interest, around four points below the prevailing market rate. Dine characterises the loan, to help him buy a new home, as part of his compensation package. He claimed a financial loss on his precious Washington house, which he said in a lawsuit against a pesticide company had been made uninhabitable by chlordane treatment. The parties settled out of court. In recent years, the lobby has also extended smaller, less favourable below-market-rate loans to more junior employees, for a variety of personal purposes.

"In the business world it's very common," said Washington lawyer Tom Asher, who specialises in advising nonprofits. "It's very unusual in the nonprofit world, and particularly very unusual" for an organization that raises money from members of the public, he said. AIPAC President Mayer Mitchell, breaking his rule of never speaking to the press, said the transactions are "perfectly legal," adding: "If members of our grass-roots constituency asked about it, I'm sure they'd be totally satisfied."

AIPAC's lay leadership, led by Beverly Hills millionaire Lawrence Weinberg, recruited Dine from the staff of Sen. Ted Kennedy. Dine's career had spanned the Peace Corps and the Foreign Service, the civil rights and anti-war movements, 10 years on the Senate staff, membership in the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellowship at Brookings, and Kennedy's 1980 presidential campaign. He was the Massachusetts Democrat's liaison to the Jewish community and his adviser on Middle East issues, having visited Israel twice.

Dine's second trip, in 1975, made a profound impression on him. He toured the countryside with a geographer from Tel Aviv University, a former paratrooper who introduced him around to his buddies on the moshavim and kibbutzim. They were veterans of four wars going back to 1948, and their lives, it seemed to Dine, were rich and tragic. He was especially moved by a man wearing an undershirt whose useless arm hung limply from its socket. They were tough, these sun-bronzed farmer-warriors, but they were also intellectually engaged. The bookshelves in their bumble houses were filled with Russian history and Marxist theory. Dine had never had more stimulating conversations. He was smitten by these crazy Jews, as he thought of them, who were making a country work.

They would never let a bully kick sand in their faces.

Muscle building

When Dine arrived at AIPAC in the fall of 1980, it was a small, Washington-focused lobby that relied on professional staff and friendships in Congress to push the pro-Israel agenda, dealing with bureaucrats in the executive branch mainly to ferret out intelligence.

Under AIPAC's founder, a soft-spoken former newspaperman named J.L. Kenen, and Kenen's successor as executive director, the blustery Morris Amitay, the lobby adhered to "Kenen's Rules": 1) Get behind legislation; don't step out in front of it (that is, keep a low profile). And 2) Lobby the Congress to pressure the White House to overrule the Arabists in the State Department.

Dine's first test was the AWACS battle of 1981. The Reagan administration had yet to establish its pro-Israel bona fides, and wanted to sell to Saudi Arabia \$8.5 billion in military equipment, including five sophisticated Airborne Warning and Control System planes. Menachem Begin, then Israeli prime minister, vehemently opposed the sale. In January, the lobby embarked on a

theological reasons. AIPAC would also widen its focus and toil in the hinterlands, ensuring pro-Israel planks in state party platforms. In the end, Dine hoped, AIPAC's army of activists would be a kind of rapid deployment force, capable of quashing sudden threats to the U.S.-Israel alliance, wherever they might arise.

Meanwhile, the traditionally Democratic cast of AIPAC's lay leadership, reflecting the Jewish community as a whole, would have to be broadened in order to address the new political realities of Washington — where the GOP controlled the Senate as well as the White House.

Over the next decade, the lobby would redouble its fund-raising, quadruple its staff and quintuple its membership around the country. Out of AIPAC would

"I believe people are basically self-destructive." When people are doing well, why do they all of a sudden do badly? Why do moths go to flames, when they could fly anywhere? Take two successful first-term presidencies — Nixon and Reagan. What happens immediately into the second term? Hubris sets in. Misguided, misdirected policies. Looseness. They forget their raison d'être." — Tom Dine, AIPAC executive director.

10-month marathon to kill it.

In the first two weeks of October, a resolution disapproving the sale swept through the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the House floor and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Reagan began stroking senators one-on-one in the family quarters, while his aides twisted arms outside. AIPAC needed 51 votes to win on the Senate floor.

The day before the vote, the lobby's fragile majority shattered when Sen. Roger Jepsen of Iowa — who had promised an AIPAC audience, "I pledge my efforts and my vote to block this sale" — suddenly announced that he was switching sides. Jepsen had neglected to warn AIPAC or his key Jewish backer in Des Moines, a wealthy Republican named Bud Hockenberry. The Senate ended up endorsing the sale, 52 to 48.

Sitting in Jepsen's office hours after the berey, Dine was enraged. "Roger," he told the senator, "everybody has the freedom to change his mind. But you didn't have the courtesy to call Bud Hockenberry!"

Dine was only partly mollified when Jepsen lost his reelection bid to Democrat Tom Harkin, who received more than \$100,000 from pro-Israel political action committees, and when then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig asked Dine's help in passing the administration's foreign aid bill — an acknowledgment from above that the lobby had arrived. There was no getting around the fact that AIPAC had lost. Never again, if Dine could help it.

A "Well-Oiled Machine"

The AWACS defeat confirmed his view that it was time to take the issue beyond the Beltway. He analysed the votes in the House and Senate, and identified 25 states in which the lobby needed to organise grass-roots campaigns, not only among Jews but also evangelical Christians who supported the Jewish state for

spring — like Athens from the head of Zeus, as Dine thought of it — an influential pro-Israel think tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, headed by former AIPAC research analyst Martin Indyk. A host of conservative Republicans would assume leadership positions, taking an active role in the lobby's day-to-day operations. (Today, three of AIPAC's top four lay leaders are GOP loyalists.) And instead of relying on Congress, as J.L. Kenen had admonished, AIPAC would systematically lobby the executive branch and attempt to influence policy at the source.

It all made perfect sense. The lobby, Dine believed, would be more powerful than ever — "the well-oiled AIPAC machine," he called it. In due course, he was invited for tete-a-tetes at the State Department by Haig's successor, George Shultz — the fire-place crackling in Shultz's elegant seventh-floor sanctum — and occasionally accepted phone calls from Ronald Reagan himself.

The administration that had begun so poorly became, by the late 1980s, the most pro-Israel in history. Foreign aid bills passed by ever-widening margins, and Arab sales seldom materialised without the lobby's tacit approval.

AIPAC had come a long way since its start in 1954. But instead of savouring its successes, the lobby turned inward, devoting energy once reserved for legislative battles to intramural blood-letting.

Some employees sensed a troubling new ethos of distrust and paranoia. At least one — Tom Pines, now a congressional aide — was escorted out of AIPAC headquarters by a security guard two hours after asking for a raise, his papers and Rolodex locked away.

A new direction — and trouble

By most accounts, the trouble

had started in 1982, when then-President Weinberg advised Dine to hire Steven Rosen, an analyst at the Rand Corp. in Santa Monica, Calif. Rosen, a former political science professor who had co-written a popular textbook "The Logic of International Relations," had grown increasingly frustrated during his three years at Rand.

There was little market at the time for his principled client, the Pentagon, for the work that had become Rosen's consuming intellectual passion: studying ways that Israel and the United States could cooperate militarily. "Steve made people nervous," said a Rand employee who knew him when he worked there. "He made no secret of his pro-Israel bias, and that's deadly in this kind of environment."

A flap ensued in November 1981, when the New York Times described a paper on the subject — which Rosen had done on his own, under private sponsorship — as a Rand Corp. product. The Rand public affairs office disassociated itself from Rosen's paper, noting that it was "incomplete" and "omits many important factors."

The paper urged the Pentagon to pre-position the hardware of a mechanised infantry division in Israel in order to counter the Soviet threat in the Gulf.

A year later AIPAC published Rosen's paper, under the title "The Strategic Value of Israel," as the first in a series of hand-somely produced monographs on U.S.-Israel relations. Rosen was then the lobby's new research director, and, as Dine once admiringly told an associate, "the best bureaucratic infighter I ever met."

Rosen, 48, has little of Dine's polish — quickly guzzling the remains from a beer bottle, as he stands by the refrigerator in his kitchen after pouring out a glass for his guest. Sleepy-eyed, he talks in a low, insinuating voice, punctuated by sighs. It's the same whether he's making an off-colour joke or offering to emceerate the precise 15 ways in which the Middle East peace process could fall apart.

An incisive analyst, he helped convince key members of the Reagan administration that the Jewish state was a U.S. "strategic asset" in the struggle with the Soviets. It was a departure from traditional arguments that America's commitment to Israel — the Middle East's sole democracy — is principally moral, cultural and emotional. Rosen helped encourage more cooperation than the two countries had ever enjoyed, and was credited with roles in promoting joint military exercises, the U.S.-Israeli "Arrow" programme to develop an anti-missile defence system, and the restructuring of Israel's debt to the United States.

But with the end of the cold war, the "strategic" argument lost steam. During Desert Storm, when Israel might have damaged the U.S.-led coalition by responding to Iraqi missile strikes, the country was "potential strategic liability," in the words of Graham Fuller, one of Rosen's successors at Rand. Still, on a recent trip to Jerusalem to announce a new phase of the largely U.S.-financed Arrow programme, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney reaffirmed the "enormous importance (of) the strategic relationship with Israel."

If Tom Dine is the bright face

AIPAC shows to the world, man who speaks around country and testifies to Congress. Steven Rosen is the lobby's brain strategist — a planner, schemer and conspiracy theorist. (He would not permit his picture to be taken for this series.) He is the whistler "Everyday" in Washington has a back problem, a computer problem and a turf problem.

He grew up in Brooklyn, Long Island, reared on the thrills and cut of left-wing politics, father was purged from American Communist Party in the late 1940s for writing a pamphlet sounding the alarm on excessive Soviet influence. To their ideology, Rosen's parents were anti-Zionist, sympathetic with the Arab cause as a way liberation movement. But Rosen rebelled against his parents' belief system, and became neoconservative and friend of Jewish state.

He came by his pro-Israel activism circuitously, as a young professor at the University of Pittsburgh, researching a treatise on "The Ideal Type of World War." He'd been examining case studies around the world in which adversarial forces had oscillated between violence and diplomacy, but he got to Israel and its neighbours, he quickly lost interest in his theoretical studies. Rosen discovered that he more concerned about Israel's real-world security, and security of the Jewish people, his people. His reading of his told him physical strength mattered. He thought he could make a contribution.

After going to work at AIPAC, Rosen took the step of reversing the name of "information and research" department, which traditionally supported the legislative department by feeding facts to members of Congress. Now it was search" first, to conform to Rosen's vision of a mini-tank populated by PhDs. It was to be his independent power base. One of his favourite phrases out the hegemonic designations — "capabilities beyond their own intentions" — seemed to apply to him as well.

Hiring a team of pro-Israel experts in economics, defence and foreign policy, Rosen flexed his own notion of executive branch lobbying, proposing a AIPAC province under his direction. He also built relationships with conservatives in Congress and assiduously courted members of AIPAC's lay leadership.

The legislative department, by lobbyist Doug Bloomfield, watched with growing suspicion then declared open war. You could not "lobby" the executive branch, Bloomfield argued. It insulated from public pressure and answered only to the president. But you could be "opted" by the executive branch. You could be seduced into co-opting your strength.

A subscriber to Frank Roosevelt's theory of "creative tension," Dine stood back and watched the battles rage. Others who challenged Rosen had a way of appearing. Among those who vanished were two editors of the Near East Report, the lobby's weekly newsletter, and Arthur Chotin, AIPAC's deputy director and a close friend of Dine's. In off-recounted incident, Dine smilingly presented Chotin with

(Continued on page 5)

Arab immigrants integrate in French society

By Tahar Ben Jelloun

FOR the sons and daughters of North African immigrants living in France, the Gulf war raised the question of integration suddenly and somewhat brutally. For many, it was time to choose. Called upon to take a stance in a complex war, they passed the test calmly and with dignity. Their behaviour was exemplary.

On the eve of the war, politicians and the media speculated a lot about the "transfer of the Gulf war to France." People feared trouble to such an extent that weapons shops were cleaned out by citizens "preparing to defend themselves."

There was evidence of tension everywhere, and no one could predict how the hundreds of thousands of young Arabs would react during the most painful moments of the war.

The degree of integration had already been put to the test plenty of times during the 80s. In 1987 and 1988, there was a surge of Islamic unrest brought on by the failure of the associative movements and by the failure of the political parties, particularly those on the left, to offer this new generation any serious prospects for the future. The disturbance died down quite quickly, even though extremists remained restless.

Apart from these fits of unrest, it is true to say that young people of North African origin are slowly becoming integrated, although this sometimes happens in a somewhat confused manner. Strangely enough it is the ones who have to do the absorbing who are creating the most problems. There are prejudices and fears. The prejudices are superficial. They have to do with the myths which have surrounded Arabs for centuries, and which

took on wider proportions with the Algerian war. The fear springs not from the difference but from the resemblance. The more these young people react like young French people from their own social set, the more they are accepted.

They see that France is changing and being shaped partly by populations which are not of European origin. That does not mean to say that the process of integration for Poles, Portuguese or Spaniards was quick and unproblematic. However, France has never been to war with these countries, still less has it had any colonial relationship with them. The Algerian war has left a deep wound in people's memories. Only the successful integration of the children from this period of history can heal it.

The other fear concerns the Islamic religion. Young Arabs are not rejecting Islam in any systematic way. For example, most of them care about observing Ramadan, because it is a community affair, and they do it out of solidarity and a desire not to provoke those who believe in it. Those who have tried to establish a rigorous form of Islam have only attracted a political lunatic fringe. But those who are seeking a place for themselves in France have understood that anything other than a moderate Islamic set-up would be an obstacle.

Arab girls have played a most important role in this process of development. It is the girls who become integrated first. They work and are often successful in their studies. Consequently, they get even with their brothers, who often have less ambition. The Arab family has developed rapidly thanks to this fierce will on the part of girls to throw in their lot with a society where the laws give women rights.

Islam, in its politically manipulated form, did not stand up to the cultural and psychological onslaught. That is why it can only be spiritual, an inner experience on the part of the individual. All the rest is merely deviation and ideology that the Gulf war swept away, or at least, it diminished the effects of it.

The process of integration currently under way represents a failure on the part of the North African countries. They did not foresee or expect that families who emigrated would evolve socially. The Arab countries used more or less to control their emigrants. They still had a grip on the single men who left but then came back every summer bringing money and presents. From the moment their families moved to France, they no longer needed to transfer currency to their country of origin. This is particularly true of the Algerian community.

The Moroccans are in a different position. Fewer of them have settled in France for good. The nine billion francs they transfer every year are an indication, not of non-integration, but of attachment to their country of origin. However, a generation from now the children of these young people will be completely French. It will take about 30 years.

We know that within each socio-professional class young North Africans are no more delinquent or violent than young French people. Studies have shown that young Arabs have a higher success rate at school than young French people of the same background. This is particularly evident in girls. What relationship will these young people have with their parents' country? They will see it from a distance. It will be a secondary memory, the

memory of another memory. They will feel that they are Arabs, but in a sentimental, instinctive way. It is impossible to forget your origins, your roots. For, successful integration is not a question of renouncing that which constitutes the whole fabric of your being. Successful integration cannot be achieved by sweeping away the past or denying your origins. Some French people demand of these young people that, in order to be accepted, they must in some way "make amends" and distance themselves, for example, from the Islamic values of their parents. Such demands provoke annoyance and rebound back on those who make them.

No one asked this of the Poles, the Portuguese, the Spaniards or the Italians because they came from the same Judaeo-Christian sphere of life. In the case of the North Africans, besides the cultural and religious differences, there is now a mutual memory forged by the dreadful process of war. Officially, the problem is Islam, at least. Islam as it is presented by the media, in the light of the political distorted versions brought about by "totalitarian" revolution.

The message here is clear. Successful integration means harmony, mutual respect and tolerance, and one cannot dispense with this basis. Those who sincerely want to become part of the fabric of French society to the extent of blending in without losing their souls know that mutual respect is essential. However, the resistance does not always come from them. It comes from those who are afraid of the future, and who forget that France is three-quarters made up of additions and mixtures from just about everywhere.

Integration is not something miraculous. It is an everyday pro-

cess and an everyday task, and it sometimes involves violence and conflicts. Manifestations of anger are not the expression of ill humour on the part of bored young people. These people have no jobs certainly. But they are expressing something much deeper and more basic, namely, the desire to enter into society and take part in shaping and developing what they consider to be their country. Consequently, as the sociologist Adil Jazouli said, they are trying to turn "violence into conflict." They are organising so that they can have something to say in the face of social institutions.

This "conflictive integration" generation as Jazouli calls it, is improving ways of approaching society and making its way in. It has broken away from its parents' generation, who did not try to penetrate the fabric of French society. But this break does not constitute negation or rejection of what the "older" generation represents symbolically. Unlike the latter, the younger generation has been led to consolidate the process of integration through culture. Because the young feel more French than Arab, they have decided to go in for integration in a way that is almost irreversible, even if that means conflicts and obstacles. It has to be said that in the early 1970s no one would have thought it possible that, in 1990, the head of state of a Latin American country would be of Arab origin. See you in 2050!

Moroccan-born Tahar Ben Jelloun lives in France. Quartet has published four of his novels; the most recent, *Silent Day in Tangiers*, appeared last month. He won the Prix Goncourt in 1987. The article is reprinted from *The Guardian*.

The men with muscle, AIPAC leaders battling for Israel

(Continued from page 4)

gift of a knife at his going-away party in 1985.

In December 1988, Bloomfield was fired in a blast of unwelcome publicity after AIPAC's inner turmoil. The lobby paid him a year's salary as severance, conditioned on his not discussing AIPAC with outsiders. Rosen had won.

AIPAC Kremlinologists — and there are many in the pro-Israel community — blamed Rosen for what they saw as the lobby's alliance with the hardline Likud Party at the expense of the dovish Labourites. Rosen himself, meanwhile, indulged an appetite for ad hominem, warning of conspiracies among various Jewish organisations to undermine AIPAC's mission, and keeping tabs on former AIPAC communications director Barbara Amouyal, years after she gave a damaging internal memo to the CBS programme "60 Minutes." Not surprisingly, he made fierce enemies. Some of them, to his dismay, spread wild rumours about his private and professional affairs.

"Steve is a brilliant guy, but he's always been known as a black-and-white guy," said a close friend of Rosen's who asked not to be identified. "There are no shades of gray. He's very combative and tends to dominate

intellectually, so I think that builds up a lot of resentment among people. A lot of people have it out for him."

In the end, Rosen gained control of three AIPAC entities — the foreign policy issues department that includes executive branch lobbying, the media-liaison operation and Near East Report. He helped steer an ex-Republican operative named Howard Kober, whom he originally hired to lobby the White House, into the newly revived job of AIPAC deputy director — a development deemed significant by many outsiders, who saw it as evidence of AIPAC's "Republicanisation."

Dine, meanwhile, tried to present a united front, describing AIPAC as "a lean, flexible, state-of-the-art yet conservative operation" that will always be "straight... legally as well as politically." But within the organisation, the executive director was becoming increasingly careful about what he said. He had learned from the rare occasions when he staked out public positions different from the Israeli government's, only to be greeted by criticism from some members of AIPAC's leadership. Worried about creating jealousy whenever the spotlight shone on him, he only agreed to go on the record for this series if his quotes were read back to him for approval.

"Tom is very often better at rock and a hard place," said Edelman, president of the pro-Israel group American Peace Now, who has known Dine for 20 years. "AIPAC finds in a somewhat difficult place because some of its constituents and some of its major financial supporters are rather conservative. On some issues, it finds being pulled in more than one direction."

The lobby — which in the decade has never been more successful, or more prosperous, or more powerful — now faces a potentially troubling, if not a realistic, an unfriendly administration prodding Israel to make peace, and a Congress that may be unable, or unwilling, to open its coffers further. "I believe people are being self-destructive," Dine said recently over dinner. "People are doing well, they all of a sudden do. Why do you do it? When they could fly anywhere. Take two successful first presidencies — Nixon, Reagan. What happened immediately into the second? Hubris sets in. Misguided policies. Look, they forget their reason d'être. Could the same thing happen to AIPAC?" "Outsiders may say Dine said. 'I don't think

Badran resigns

(Continued from page 1)

if he chose not to incorporate the Muslim Brotherhood.

Most of the sources interviewed by the Jordan Times said that Mr. Masri would embody the concept of national unity between Palestinians and Jordanians in the Kingdom and that this would help his cause inside and outside parliament.

Mr. Masri, who was born in Nablus in 1942 and represented his city in the Jordanian Parliament before the Kingdom's severed legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has also held prominent posts in consecutive governments.

He was minister of foreign affairs from January 84 to December 88 and deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs in 1989. After his election to this parliament in 1989 he served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee until he was reappointed foreign minister in January 1991.

Mr. Masri is married with two children. He graduated with a B.A. in business administration from North Texas State University in 1965. He served as ambassador to Spain, France and the United Kingdom in the 70s and 80s.

Some Jordanians were surprised by his choice as prime minister since it was widely believed that either Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker or

former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat would be nominated for the job in light of persistent rumours and speculation that Mr. Badran submitted his resignation soon after the end of the Gulf war.

But, many Jordanian politicians and deputies expressed the opinion that Mr. Masri was a logical choice because of his background, experience and integrity.

"He is as experienced, intelligent and charismatic as any," said one deputy.

"He will make a good prime minister even in these most difficult circumstances that the country is passing through," the deputy added. "His government may not be acclaimed on the House floor but I am confident that he will have the majority he needs in any vote of confidence."

Kuwaiti trials spark outcry

(Continued from page 1)

Hussein said. "If they (the Kuwaitis) go ahead with the death sentence, I will never rest until I avenge my brother's death," he added.

Mr. Hussein, who was once jailed in the occupied territories by the Israelis, said that he expected such inhumane action from his "known enemies," not "from our Arab brothers."

He said that all defendants were represented by one Kuwaiti lawyer, Imad Al Seif, a member of a Kuwaiti opposition group.

"These trials are a flagrant denial of justice, and are in severe violation of human rights," Omar Nabulsi, a prominent Jordanian lawyer, told the Jordan Times. "The due process of law was never observed in these trials," he added.

Mr. Nabulsi, a former minister of justice, said that the sentences were a "mockery of justice" and "a rude, blatant infringement of human rights and justice."

Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the sentences violated the basics of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention call for the protection of individuals falling under the jurisdiction of a belligerent. The provisions forbid certain practices such as deportation of individuals or groups, regardless of motive, the taking of hostages, outrages upon personal dignity, torture, collective punishment and reprisals, the unjustified destruction of property, and discrimination in treatment on the basis of race, religion, nationality, or political grounds. It also calls for protecting foreign citizens living in a foreign country during armed conflicts and gives expatriates the right to leave their adopted homeland freely.

Mr. Abu Qoura also noted that Article 38 of the Fourth Geneva Convention provides for fair treatment of foreigners in peace time and lays down a rule that foreigners be treated on equal terms with the local residents. Article 71 of the convention also stipulates that foreign citizens facing charges in court should be allowed fair and just trials and that the International Committee of the Red Cross be notified and present at such trials.

Dr. Ghassan Al Judi, professor of international law at the University of Jordan, said that Jordanians and Palestinians were treated inhumanely by Kuwaiti authorities.

"International law bans any forms of torture against foreign citizens," Dr. Judi told Petra. "And this view is supported by Article five of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1975," he added.

Sidestepping condemnation of Kuwait, United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that he did not have any "concrete" evidence of human rights violations of Jordanians and Palestinians there.

"I think the Kuwaiti government is making a great error. I think that the government returned to a country where the situation was chaotic and it is difficult to accuse it under such circumstances," Mr. Perez de Cuellar was reported as saying to France's TFI television channel.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) issued a statement expressing deep pain and outrage over the death sentences passed by the Kuwaiti court and urging international organisations to help put an end to the summary trials.

Sixteen PNC members signed the statement a copy of which was submitted to the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman.

Britain balks

(Continued from page 1)

Dutch officials said they too were reluctant to pull out their troops until the security situation was clear.

Some two million Kurds and Shiites fled into Turkey and Iran after Iraqi troops quelled rebellions after the Gulf war.

Turkish government denounced Monday the peace talks in Baghdad, saying they would only result in further tragedy for the Kurdish people.

The radical separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) also accused Washington and Ankara of establishing the "security zone" in northern Iraq bordering Turkey to help strangle Kurdish rebellions in the two countries.

A statement from the PKK, which has training camps in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, said Kurdish rebel leaders based in Iraq were involved in conspiracies "that would only bring frustration, setbacks and disasters — in short, inevitable death — to our people there."

Iran wants

(Continued from page 1)

That report was not substantiated by Western reporters on the scene.

In another part of his conference, Mr. Habibi said that Iran would not force some one million Iraqi refugees to return home. But he said that Iran had "created the appropriate conditions for their return, and of course their return depends on the security created for them on the other side of the border."

Mr. Habibi said that henceforth he would be acting as government spokesman, reporting cabinet decisions to the press at a weekly briefing every Monday. Mr. Habibi also denied Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons and said its nuclear programme was peaceful.

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Financial Markets

in co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Close Date 14/6/91	Close Date 17/6/91
Sterling Pound	1.6329	1.6306
Deutsche Mark	1.7450	1.7456
Swiss Franc	1.5388	1.5393
French Franc	6.0435	6.1160**
Japanese Yen	140.77	140.93
European Currency Unit	1.1430	1.1420

* 1SD Per 100
** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. C.M.T.

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 17/6/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.12	6.31	6.81
Sterling Pound	11.31	11.06	10.31	10.08
Deutsche Mark	5.75	4.57	4.06	4.12
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.37	7.41	7.68
French Franc	9.60	9.67	9.60	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.57	7.67	7.68	7.50
European Currency Unit	9.51	9.51	9.96	9.93

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 U.S. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	367.55	7.00	Silver	4.43	.10

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 17/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.080	.085
Sterling Pound	1.1160	1.1216
Deutsche Mark	.3812	.3831
Swiss Franc	.4443	.4465
French Franc	.1122	.1128
Japanese Yen*	.4864	.4864
Dutch Guilder	.3583	.3401
Swedish Krona	.1055	.1060
Italian Lira*	.0512	.0515
Belgian Franc	.01661	.01670

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 17/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8200
Lebanese Lira*	.0745	.0765
Saudi Riyal	.1620	.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1850	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1850	.1860
Greek Drachma*	.3410	.3800
Cypriot Pound	1.3850	1.4750

* Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/6/1991 Close	16/6/1991 Close
All-Share	112.04	112.54
Banking Sector	107.94	108.57
Insurance Sector	114.86	114.31
Industry Sector	115.73	116.14
Services Sector	130.02	130.34

December 31, 1990 = 100

U.S. Eximbank grants \$50m credit to Kuwait

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) has granted the Foreign Credit Insurance Association (FCIA) authority to issue \$50 million for short-term export credit insurance covering obligations of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

The special delegated authority allows the FCIA to meet increasing demand from U.S. exporters for repayment risk protection on credit sales to KPC with payment terms up to a maximum of 360 days. FCIA has applications from a number of companies, including General Motors, Oshkosh Trucks, and Ingersoll-Rand, that are exporting U.S. equipment related to the emergency phase of the restoration of Kuwait's oil sector.

The KPC, headquartered in Safat, Kuwait, is the state-owned umbrella corporation which controls all aspects of Kuwait's petroleum resources.

Eximbank is the U.S. government agency which helps the American business community finance their foreign sales. Through a variety of loan, guarantee and insurance programmes, Eximbank helps U.S. exporters compete in the global market-place on the basis of price, performance and delivery.

United Gulf Bank blames \$34 million loss on war

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — The Bahrain-based United Gulf Bank blamed the Gulf war for a \$34.63 million loss in 1990 compared with a net profit of \$10.566 million the previous year.

"The flight of capital from the area in the initial weeks was sharp and sudden. The level of outflow of private sector deposits is estimated to have reached as high as 30 per cent," the bank said in its annual report.

It said while some deposits had returned to the region, the six-week war in January and February, "added more uncertainty to the geopolitical and economic outlook of the area."

"The war will have a devastating impact on the economies of the Gulf countries in addition to catastrophic ecological destruction," the bank, a joint stock company, said.

Total assets at the end of 1990 dropped 10 per cent to 207.4 million from \$230.7 million a year ago.

The bank said it set aside \$26 million for doubtful loans in 1990 compared with \$11.8 million in 1989.

The Kuwait Investment Project Company holds about 96 per cent of the bank's shares.

East Bloc reform makes data worse

BRUSSELS (R) — Bad statistics from health to transport, prices, and population on the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Mr. Franchet said the task of improving East European statistics was a long-term exercise, as attitudes and techniques both had to change.

Information on prices was the most suspect of all statistics in eastern Europe, with industrial production figures not far behind, due to the communist "mythology" that factory output was the key to economic success.

Mr. Franchet said that in the old days factories sometimes included rejects as part of total production to swell output figures, which Mr. Egon Hoelder, president of the German Statistical Office, gave the example of lumping in house repairs among new house building statistics.

The new volume showed falling annual average population growth rates in all six countries when 1986-2000 was compared with the period 1965-1980.

For example, Bulgaria's population growth rate was likely to fall from 0.5 per cent to 0.2 per cent, while Hungary's population would actually fall by 0.1 per cent annually against a 0.4 per cent yearly rise in the earlier period.

Lack of funding hampers growth prospects of Saudi private sector

RIYADH (R) — A shortage of lenders is hampering growth prospects of Saudi Arabia's privately-owned industry anxious to break the virtual monopoly of state-run firms, according to bankers and economists.

"Saudi private sector business achievement is based on very few big business houses. But banks are not confident they will get their money back from many projects which are put forward," said one independent economist.

"The Saudi industrial sector is not noted for its efficiency," he noted.

Unless the government and lenders can act to adjust the imbalance between the state-funded and private industries, the government would remain the sole funding agency to the economy, the sources said.

"There is just a shortage of good quality, even medium quality lending opportunities. So there is such big competition for what does come up that downward pressure on (profit) margins becomes intense," said the corporate manager at one commercial bank.

This allows established companies, such as state-backed Saudi Basic Industries Company (SABIC), to command razor sharp margins on their borrowings never offered by banks outside the kingdom, bankers said.

"SABIC can get 1/4 per cent over LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) for its loans. That's even better than the government can get on the international market," said another banker.

The Saudi government last month signed a \$4.5 billion loan at 3/4 of a point over LIBOR, the rate banks charge each other for working funds.

The result of the squeeze on profits and lack of other lending opportunities is a long-term haemorrhage of potential investment capital out of Saudi Arabia and into international investments, according to commercial banks.

Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency figures show that the ratio of commercial banks' domestic credit to deposits fell to 50 per cent in 1989 from 59 per cent in 1980.

But the ratio of their foreign assets to deposits rose to 81 per cent from 60 per cent over the same period.

This is exactly the opposite direction from the trend the government needs if it is to encourage the private sector to take up some of the burden for growth, the economists said.

The need to use more of the private sector capital is particularly important when the government has to pay off up to \$60 billion in unexpected costs resulting from the Gulf war, they added.

The bankers say unhappy memories of the many corporate bankruptcies during the mid-1980s oil price collapse, legal problems with assuring loan repayments, and unacceptable business plans are all to blame.

The legal status of lenders under the Saudi Islamic law, which condemns all interest rates

as usury, has never been properly resolved, bankers said.

The economists say the government may have to step in to help lenders and borrowers elude together.

For example, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) which is the single most important channel of funds to private sector projects, may concentrate on encouraging better planning, design, and marketing as well as purging up initial capital, they said.

SIDF typically funds 50 per cent of an accepted project, the owner putting in 25 per cent of his own money and commercial banks coming in with the remaining 25 per cent.

But SIDF has a limit of million rivals (\$27 million) funding to anyone project, one economist. "If you want to develop industry you need state sector factories on a large scale. Some firms want to do but they are coming up against the limit," he added.

Indonesia tells banks to slow down their foreign borrowing

JAKARTA (R) — Heavily indebted Indonesia, which this month hopes for record new aid pledges from the West and Japan, has given warning it could face a debt crisis if its banks do not curb their appetite for foreign loans.

"We want to avoid cases like in Latin America (where the world debt crisis started in the 1980s)," Finance Minister Johannes Sumarlin told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He urged state banks to stop foreign borrowing and private banks to be more prudent, though he did not issue any new rules.

"I think my appeal (to stop for the time being) will be enough. A resumption in borrowing would depend on the market, he added.

Foreign borrowing by the private sectors, including state banks, in the fiscal year to last March jumped 46 per cent to \$7 billion, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mr. Sumarlin estimated up to half the amount was raised by state banks.

Private loans account for about a third of Indonesia's \$66 billion foreign debt, one of the largest in the developing world.

The rush to borrow offshore, to a large extent sparked by high interest rates at home, has overcrowded already tight international markets and sharply raised the costs for Indonesian borrowers.

Jakarta has always been adamant it would not reschedule its debts, many of them raised in the early 1980s when prices for its oil were high, and has tried to re-mould its economy to make it more efficient to generate enough money for development and to pay off the loans.

Its efforts have made it one of the golden boys of the developing world and the World Bank has recommended donors pledge \$4.6 billion in fresh aid, slightly more than last year's record figure.

One leading Indonesian economist immediately welcomed Mr. Sumarlin's statement.

"It's quite something, it's a good decision," he said. Like several others he has been telling the government to clamp down on foreign borrowing which a freedom from foreign exchange controls has made tough to control.

Mr. Sumarlin declined to say whether the move had been sparked by Indonesia's worsening trade position and ballooning current account deficit, which the IMF says grew to \$4.5 billion in 1990/91 from \$2 billion the previous year.

"I leave that for you to decide," he said.

In March, Indonesia's trade balance turned into a deficit of \$134.5 million, the first in more than two years.

"It's really significant and quite worrisome," the economist said of the deficit.

Another said a continued worsening of the trade balance, coupled with the growing foreign debt, might force Indonesia to reschedule.

The trade balance has been hurt by high imports of capital goods to meet needs to promote exports, which in turn have been slowed by the world economic downturn.

But several analysts said some large projects by politically well-connected local businessmen may be causing some of the damage since they can often raise needed money through state banks.

"All the big projects get financed through state banks which borrow heavily abroad... the main funding is not through market forces," one analyst said.

Italy releases first block of mega-credit for Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Italy has given the go-ahead to release the first part of \$7.2 billion credit to Algeria, earmarked in May for violent unrest in the African country, the Algerian news agency APS said.

APS said Italy's export credit department gave the go-ahead for guaranteed credit totalling \$2.4 billion, with a guarantee of a later short-term credit of \$300 million.

Last Thursday, SACE, the Italian government had promised Algeria it would get the same whatever the outcome of the party general elections.

An Italian embassy statement quoted by APS, said the go-ahead had not been delayed by political situation in Algeria, but by the complexity of proceeding with the agreement.

Italy announced the credit on May 2 and promised to provide 100 per cent guarantee said it was up to Italian commercial banks to agree on spending projects and work interest rates and the length of the loans.

Top Romanian banker sees rescue in treasure in Moscow

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's shattered economy could be rescued by the immediate return of gold and other treasure carried off to the Soviet Union 74 years ago, National Bank Governor Mugur Isarescu has said.

The country's entire treasury, valued at \$38 billion at current prices according to local press reports, was moved for safekeeping to Moscow in December 1916 when Romania was threatened with a German invasion.

The transaction was guaranteed by Britain, France, Italy and Japan despite the dissenting voices of a minority of Romanian National Bank directors who predicted the collapse of the Tsarist Russian empire.

After the Russian revolution in October 1917, Moscow retained the treasure, apparently on the grounds that it belonged to the Romanian people and not to the National Bank.

During the inter-war period

Romania made three abortive bids to recover the treasure, which also included foreign currency reserves in a variety of pre-World War I European currencies, crown jewels and valuable artistic and religious objects.

"The return of 100 tonnes of gold ingots, \$1.5 billion, would make a good starting point for the transition to a market economy," Mr. Isarescu told Reuters.

Gold is currently worth around \$357 an ounce.

He said he was running the National Salvation Front (NSF)

King Fahd approves \$17m loan to Egypt

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has approved a \$17 million loan to Egypt for a highway project, the Saudi Development Finance Authority (SDFA) said Monday.

Earlier this year the fund Cairo 207 million riyals (\$55 million) to build a sugar factory.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks finished lower on profit-taking following rallies on Thursday and Friday related to futures expiry and not based on fundamentals. The Nikkei average was down 150.80 points or 0.60 per cent to 24,943.09, with 220 million shares traded.

SYDNEY — The Australian share market was pushed sharply higher by strong support from offshore and local investors. The All Ordinaries closed at 1,520.3, up 16.5 points.

HONG KONG — Market closed Monday and Tuesday for holidays.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed slightly mixed after selective

buying interest alternated with light profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial index ended up 6.58 at 1,534.08.

BOMBAY — Prices rallied on expectations that the Congress Party would form the next government despite falling short of a majority in recent elections. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 14.40 points to 1,307.21.

FRANKFURT — A rally in car shares lifted German stock prices at the start of trading but profit taking eroded most earlier gains. The DAX index closed 1.24 points higher at 1,701.07, well below the intraday high of 1,718.21.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly higher in moderate trading. The SPI index rose 4.9 to 1,117.7.

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South African parliament repeals segregation law

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Parliament ended the racial classification of citizens Monday, abolishing the last major apartheid law in an overwhelmingly vote.

The repeal of the population registration act is seen as a milestone in the dismantling of apartheid. But the action did not address the biggest race reform still confronting South Africa: Negotiating a new constitution that will give blacks the vote.

The population registration act of 1950 has been the foundation of virtually all apartheid measures and caused "discriminatory humiliation and heartache," Home Affairs Minister Gene Louw said during last week's parliamentary debate in Cape Town.

"The repeal of the act ... is a momentous occasion," The Citizen, a pro-government daily, said in an editorial Monday. "The act determined the place in South African society of all its people, from the cradle to the grave."

Racial classification determined where a person could live, which schools one could attend, which public toilets one could use

and which cemeteries one was buried in.

The only party in the tricameral parliament to vote against repeal of the act was the pro-apartheid conservative party, the official opposition in the white chamber of parliament.

Parliament approved a replacement measure that ends all new race classifications and removes race references that remained in other laws. But people already racially classified will remain so until a new non-racial constitution is negotiated.

The repeal of the population registration act is likely to bring a further easing of foreign sanctions, which have been steadily crumbling over the past year in response to de Klerk's reforms. De Klerk was to address parliament after the voting, and was expected to reiterate his readiness to begin black-white talks on a new constitution that will give the 30 million blacks equal voting rights.

But the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groups say the government must free all political prisoners and do

more to end fighting in black townships before negotiations can start.

About 4,000 blacks have been killed in violence during the last year and a half. The ANC has repeatedly claimed de Klerk has not done enough to end the violence, mainly between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

During last week's debate in parliament, Conservative Party member Willem Botha said the population registration act was one of the country's best laws, and was repealed because the ruling National Party "has become ashamed to be white."

But parliament member Jac Rabie told the mixed-race chamber of parliament that nearly everyone in his family was classified differently. Rabie himself was once classified Asian, but is now officially of mixed-race.

The new law, he said, "means my white uncles and I are now the same."

South Africa's parliament has separate chambers for whites, Asians and people of mixed-race. The 30-million black majority is excluded.



Bodies of the victims of Sunday's massacre in Punjab after a Sikh terrorist gunned down 76 train passengers

Punjab cities close down to protest against mass killings

LUDHIANA, India IRI — Cities in the north Indian state of Punjab largely stopped work Monday in protest against the massacre of 76 train passengers by Sikh separatists, officials said.

They said shops and businesses in major cities mostly closed following Saturday night's slaughter of mainly Hindu passengers aboard two trains near the industrial city of Ludhiana.

Senior official S.S. Channy said an intensive search for the killers was continuing.

The killings were part of a Sikh militant effort to stop state and national elections June 22.

The militants, whose decade old campaign for an independent Sikh homeland has cost the lives of thousands, say the elections would give a facade of legitimacy to Indian rule of the rich, northern agricultural state.

They have killed about 20 candidates for a 117-state assembly to take back power exercised directly from New Delhi for more than four years.

The militants have also called a state-wide curfew for June 21 and 22 and told people anyone who tries to vote risks being shot.

Baker arrives in Germany

BERLIN (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Germany Monday for discussions with European leaders on how to meet the political and economic needs of a continent emerging from the cold war.

Baker's itinerary was expanded to add stops in Yugoslavia and Albania following his attendance at a meeting of foreign ministers from the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The organization includes European countries, Canada and the United States.

While in Germany, Baker is scheduled to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh to try to resolve differences over a treaty slashing both sides' long-range nuclear arsenals. Settling the remaining differences would open the way to a summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

State Department officials said Baker would go to Yugoslavia Thursday, where he was expected to meet with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar. From Belgrade he will travel Friday to Albania for a brief stop to meet with Premier Ylli Buhi and leaders of the country's democratic opposition.

The United States has pressed Yugoslavia to remain unified. But the Western-oriented states of Slovenia and Croatia have vowed to secede unless hard-line Marxists in other republics agree to form a looser federation.

Because of its self-imposed isolation and severe human rights abuses, Albania is the only European nation that is not a member of CSCE. But it has asked to join the organization and the United States is willing to support the move if the government continues democratic reforms, a U.S. official said.

U.S. armada rescues Americans from threatened Philippine base

MANILA (R) — A U.S. naval armada Monday plucked American families from a military base in the Philippines threatened by an erupting volcano that has killed at least 164 people in a series of destructive blasts.

A U.S. naval battle group headed by the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln picked up 5,000 dependents of American servicemen Monday from Subic Bay Naval Base. U.S. spokesmen said a total of 20,000 people would be evacuated.

As American families pulled out, about a quarter of a million Filipinos crowded into churches, schools and gymnasiums, or took refuge with relatives after fleeing by bus or on foot from the erupting volcano which killed at least 164 people in a weekend of terror, relief officials said.

Those killed included a nine-year-old American girl in Subic.

where many storage buildings collapsed. Most Filipinos died when buildings buckled, weighed down by continuous ashfalls and rocked by earthquakes sparked by the volcano.

Others were killed when villages were swamped by mudslides and floods triggered by a tropical storm.

Relief and government officials said 48 died in Pampanga province, 45 in Zambales province, 16 in Tarlac province, five in the Bataan peninsula, 34 in Glongapo town and 16 in the town of Angeles.

More were feared buried in towns and villages swamped by cascading mud unleashed when Mount Pinatudo erupted in a deadly series of explosions, causing buildings to collapse under the weight of accumulated ash and sand.

Government officials estimated damage to crops and property at almost \$200 million.

"I went through the Japanese occupation, but the war was never anything like this," said 75-year-old Corazon Montecarlo, as one arrived at an evacuation camp in San Fernando on the perimeter of a 40 kilometre danger zone" around the volcano.

President Corason Aquino visited refugees at a sports centre in Manila and appealed for donations of food and clothing.

Tremors rocked the area throughout the night, but by Monday Pinatudo appeared to have quietened down and scientists said the worst may be over. Chief Philippine volcanologist Raymundo Punongbayan said the last major eruption was Sunday morning and the level of explosions could weaken.

Historic Northern Ireland talks start after last-minute hitch

BELFAST (R) — Historic peace talks on Northern Ireland finally started Monday after a last-minute hitch over who the chairman would be.

British officials confirmed that former Australian Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen would chair talks involving Northern Ireland political parties and the Dublin government.

Fiery Protestant preacher politician Ian Paisley gave his final approval for Stephen's appointment after leaving the talks venue for an hour to check on the diplomat-judge's background with his Unionist Party officials.

The talks were overshadowed by the shooting hours earlier of a part time soldier in the Northern Ireland-based Ulster defence reg-

iment in a suspected Irish Republican Army (IRA) gun attack.

Detectives believe the man's killing — he was shot dead on his way to work at a Belfast tyre depot — could herald another bloody round of sectarian "tit for tat" killings.

On Sunday, Protestant extremists from the Ulster volunteer force said they shot and wounded a Catholic because he was a leading IRA member.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, has been excluded from the talks because it refuses to renounce violence.

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke is hoping to return the province to self government after 17 years of direct rule from London.

Monday's talks involved four political parties — the two Protestant unionist parties, the Moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Middle of the Road Alliance Party.

The proceedings finally got under way after seven weeks of procedural wrangling that tested Brooke's patience and diplomacy to the limit.

Northern Ireland's only previous attempt at power-sharing collapsed in 1974 after just one year when a Protestant-inspired general strike brought the province to its knees.

Sir Ninian Stephen, Australian governor-general from 1982 to 1989, confirmed he has accepted the difficult diplomatic task of bridging centuries of mistrust between Protestant and Catholic.

Germany, Poland sign historic friendship treaty

BONN, Germany (AP) — Germany and Poland Monday signed a historic friendship and non-aggression treaty that aims to clear away ill feelings that have persisted in the 46 years since the end of World War II.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Polish Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki signed the landmark pact at the chancellery.

The "treaty on good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation" sets guidelines for intensified economic, cultural and political relations.

The document states that the two nations will "strive toward concluding ... the past's sorrowful chapter" and to "convert into reality their peoples' wish for long-lasting understanding and

reconciliation."

Many Poles still have painful memories of Adolf Hitler's 1939 invasion of their homeland and the Nazis' brutal six-year occupation.

"The treaty parties confirm that they will abstain from the threat or use of force directed against the territorial integrity or political independence of the other treaty party," states the non-aggression clause of the pact.

The document also guarantees the rights of about 200,000 ethnic Germans living in a huge section of Poland that was forfeited by Germany after World War II.

One of the major promises Poland is getting in return is that Germany will help it eventually gain entry into the European

Community (EC).

Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski was quoted as saying the document is crucial not just for Poland and Germany, but also for the integration of wealthy Western Europe and the struggling east.

The newspaper Die Welt Monday quoted him as saying that German-Polish cooperation "can and should foster the growing-together of both parts of Europe into a unified whole."

Under enormous pressure from Germans who had been forced from land forfeited by Germany to Poland after the war, Kohl early last year refused Warsaw's demand to state that united Germany would never seek to regain the land.

Roh asks cabinet to prepare for unification of two Koreas

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo told his cabinet Monday to prepare the way for unification with communist North Korea, saying the division of the Korean peninsula would not last beyond this century.

"There is a possibility that the Korean peninsula will be unified in the middle of the 1990s, and I believe the division will not last beyond this century," a government spokesman quoted Roh as telling a cabinet meeting.

"Internationally, a foundation for unification has been successfully constructed. Now is the time for us to lay the foundation at home as early as possible," Roh was quoted as saying.

Roh ordered the cabinet to study German unification last year to help them formulate policies for a united Korea.

Unification minister Choi Ho Joong told the cabinet meeting that it would be difficult for the two Koreas to achieve unification as Germany did.

"There has been a continuation of tensions and confrontations between the South and North Korea," Choi said.

"On the other hand, there had been exchanges and cooperation in the past 40 years in Germany. Despite this, the unified Germany now faces serious problems in overcoming differences between the people in the east and west," Choi said.

Roh placed high priority on improving ties with North Korea and its communist allies since he took office in February 1988.

South Korea repeatedly offered to



Roh Tae-Woo

bold talks with 79-year-old North Korean President Kim Il Sung who was installed in power by the Soviet Union in 1948.

Seoul established diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union last year and exchanged trade offices with China this year. Both have been close allies of Pyongyang.

Korea, a restive Japanese colony from 1910 until 1945, was divided at the end of World War II. More than 10 million Koreans have been separated from their families by the division and the 1950-58 Korean war.

Reunification of their country is an emotional issue for Koreans although some Seoul officials privately express reservations about the practical and economic problems of joining two countries which have evolved very different social systems in the past four decades.

In recent years, South Korea's successful efforts to establish relations with its former communist enemies have isolated North Korea.

51 arrested

In another development, fifty one people have been arrested and 415 others are under investigation for vote-buying, bribery and other illegal activities in the run-up to local elections in South Korea this week, officials said Monday.

As the number of arrests relating to Thursday's poll increased, Roh ordered a strict crackdown on campaign irregularities.

"Ferret out and strictly clamp down on corrupt activities, regardless of (whether they were committed by) ruling or opposition camps," Roh was quoted as telling his cabinet ministers Monday.

The 130,000 strong national police have been put on full alert to prevent corruption in the elections for councils in six large cities and nine provinces.

The June 20 poll is the second round of local polls. Ward and town council elections were held in March.

Elected local government was abolished by a military government in 1961. Revival of local autonomy has been a main opposition demand and was a Roh campaign promise.

Some political analysts view Thursday's election as a test of popular support for Roh's government which took office in 1988.

China calls Pope's naming of Chinese cardinal unacceptable

BEIJING (AP) — China accused Pope John Paul II Monday of meddling in its internal affairs by appointing a Chinese priest as a cardinal.

The Pope disclosed late last month that he had secretly named then Bishop Ignatius Gong Pin-mei a cardinal 12 years ago, while the former prelate of Shanghai was still in prison.

Cardinal Gong, also spelled Kung, spent 30 years in prison for refusing to denounce the Catholic Church in Rome. He now lives in a home for retired priests in Stamford, Connecticut.

The foreign ministry called the appointment "an interference in China's internal affairs" and unacceptable.

"To do this is only to produce new obstacles in the improvement of relations between China and the Vatican," an unnamed spokesman was quoted as saying on the nationally televised evening news.

China severed relations with the Vatican in 1957, claiming it had interfered in China's internal affairs. It does not recognise the Pope's authority.

In recent years, China has said it will not restore relations until the Vatican severs ties with Beijing's rival government in Taiwan.

The Beijing government has set up its own patriotic Catholic Church, which consecrates its own bishops.

AIDS discoverer calls for 'Gulf war' against disease

By John Follain
Reuters

FLORENCE, Italy — The doctor who discovered AIDS urged the United States Monday to launch an offensive against the killer disease as big as its Gulf war mission.

In an interview to mark the 10th anniversary of his first report on AIDS, Dr. Michael Gottlieb said President George Bush was doing too little to slow the epidemic.

"In the first 30 days of the Gulf war (to oust Iraq from Kuwait), 14 American soldiers died. On the home front, 2,500 Americans died of AIDS," said Gottlieb, in Florence for the seventh International AIDS Conference.

"We need a war plan against the HIV virus (which causes AIDS) as big and comprehensive as that which the U.S. deployed in the Gulf war," he said. "Otherwise we will never win."

He urged Bush to put AIDS at the top of the domestic agenda and appoint a White House adviser to deal exclusively with it.

Gottlieb, an American, was the first to report on June 5, 1981, a new disease which broke down the body's immune system. The HIV virus itself was identified a year later.

He described five Los Angeles homosexual men who had developed a rare form of pneumonia which had already killed two of them.

More than 500,000 Americans will develop AIDS in the next decade, according to official U.S. estimates.

By the year 2000, 10 million adults worldwide will have developed the disease. Forty million adults and children will be infected with the virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) believes.

"The U.S. epidemic could have been prevented. It's the government's fault if somebody gets the virus because they weren't informed enough about infection through sex or drugs," said Gottlieb.

He said the anti-AIDS plan should highlight intravenous drug users as a high risk group spread-

ing HIV among both men and women, through dirty needles and sexual intercourse.

The HIV virus is spread through the bloodstream and can be caught through sexual contact and sharing contaminated hypodermic needles.

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is so hard to treat because it destroys the body's immune system rather than killing victims directly.

Gottlieb said the programme should include easy access to drugs for some users and to clean needles.

"That sounds radical but that's how the administration's condom campaign was described in the mid-1980s," he said.

Homosexual men have so far

had to bear the brunt of the U.S. epidemic. But it is now spreading most rapidly there among intravenous drug users.

The pattern is similar in much of the industrialised world. In developing nations, virtually all cases can be traced to heterosexual sex and infection rates are soaring more rapidly.

Gottlieb backed activists' demands that compounds recently identified as inhibiting the HIV virus from reproducing itself should be made available to sufferers immediately.

Two new drugs are expected to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drugs Administration this year. They are similar to the only approved treatment, AZT, which prolongs life but is toxic.

COLUMN

Prostitutes use radio station to combat AIDS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Prostitutes have started a radio station that broadcasts news, music, interviews and advice about safe sex from Vila Mimosa, Rio's oldest red-light district. Euridice Coelho Reis, president of the Rio Association of Prostitutes, said the group decided radio would be the best way to reach members with messages about AIDS, because so many of the women are illiterate. Ms. Reis, who is 44 and formerly worked in Vila Mimosa, said the station also was effective in reaching clients. Many married customers are hesitant about taking leaflets home, she said, because they don't want their wives "to discover where they spend their free time." Prostitution is believed to be a major cause of AIDS spreading beyond the high-risk groups of intravenous drug users and male homosexuals to women and heterosexuals. Two Vila Mimosa prostitutes died of AIDS in April, the month the radio station began broadcasting.

Two yachtsmen safe after ordeal

LONDON (AP) — Two British yachtsmen who spent six days drifting in a life raft without food after their boat sank during a long-distance race were rescued by a warship, the British coast guard said Sunday. Geoff Hales and Andrew Webster were picked up by the Portuguese warship Vasco De Gama 600 miles (965 kilometres) from the Azores, said a spokesman at the coast guard station in Falmouth, on England's southwest coast. They were due to arrive in Lisbon Tuesday. Hales and Webster took to their life raft when their yacht, the 30-foot (nine-metre) Minitech, capsized and sank on the outward leg of the Falmouth-to-Azores race, which began June 1.

Drug squad hits wrong house

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — A drug squad overturned furniture, destroyed appliances and smashed a toilet to bits during a raid on the wrong house, police said. "I thought somebody was shooting at us when all that glass came flying in," said Lloyd Miner, who was watching television with his girlfriend when police came crashing. Police said the officers ignored a routine safe-guard and hit the wrong address. Damage to the house went beyond what is expected in a search for drugs, police said. Doors were ripped off cabinets, televisions overturned and an air-conditioning unit torn out. No drugs or illegal items were found. Miner, a 33-year-old construction worker, said officers struck him with blunt objects, possibly flashlights, to make him lie on the floor. He was taken to jail and held for about five hours. Obscured behind bushes is the adjacent house that officers had a warrant to enter. Neighbours said strangers walked in and out of that house as the raid proceeded. Miner, his girlfriend, and their landlord are considering suing.

Man devotes life to search for mysterious beast

WATER VALLEY Alberta (AP) — It's not that Tom Steenburg is fanatical about the Sasquatch, a hairy, man-like creature Americans call Bigfoot. He's merely obsessed. How else to describe a hobby that consumes all his spare time and, alas, as wife Pam Ruef acknowledges, every bit of spare money? "It's been an obsession since I was a kid," said Steenburg, a 30-year-old hospital maintenance employee. "My parents hoped I'd grow out of it." It isn't easy being Alberta's unofficial Hunter of the Sasquatch, which hundreds of people claim to have seen in the Pacific Northwest. Scientists generally reject the idea of such an animal and the lunatic fringe makes it hard for a serious researcher to be taken seriously. Steenburg said he spends as much time and effort debunking false sightings and hoaxes as he does in search of the elusive beast. "I don't believe in it 100 per cent because I've never seen one," he said. "You have to be skeptical to do research." On the other hand, Steenburg noted, he has never seen a wolverine during years of wandering the magnificent Western Canadian wilderness in the foot of the Rockies.